

Page 15  
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Wednesday February 14 1996

Abu Dhabi D 50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Pakistan R 70
Albania L 200	Hungary P 200	Poland Z 6.70
Andorra FF 10	Indonesia Rp 1,950	Portugal E 200
Australia A\$ 25	Iran R 55	Qatar Q 8.50
Austria S 13.50	Israel NIS 9.50	Romania L 2,200
Belgium BF 80	Italy L 2,000	Saudi Arabia R 10
Benin CFA 170	Jordan JD 1.00	Slovakia SK 55
Bulgaria B 12.50	Kazakhstan K 1,000	Slovenia S 200
Cyprus C 1.00	Latvia L 200	Spain P 225
Czech Republic KC 45	Lithuania L 200	Sweden SK 15
Denmark DK 15	Malaysia M 2.00	Switzerland SF 3
Dominican DR 50	Latvia L 200	Thailand B 50
Egypt E 5	Latvia L 200	Taiwan NT 150
Finland F 5	Latvia L 200	Turkey TL 100.00
France FF 11	Latvia L 200	Ukraine U 2,000
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Greece D 350	Latvia L 200	Zimbabwe Z 27.00

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

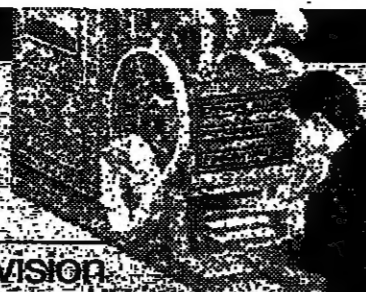
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Guardian 2: with today's television



## Society The spirit of trees inspires Newbury protesters

G2 Pages 10/11

## Arts The carnal clinch provides fodder for Valentine's Day

G2 Pages 12/13



New policy means 22,000 a year will avoid prison

# Howard to end jailing over fines

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE jailing of more than 22,000 fine defaulters a year is to end, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, announced last night.

New guidance is to be issued to magistrates in the spring which will end the centuries-old practice of sending to prison petty offenders who have repeatedly failed to pay court fines.

"Together with the Lord Chancellor, I am reviewing the powers and procedures available to the courts to ensure that they can enforce payment of fines without resorting to imprisonment save in the most exceptional circumstances," Mr Howard told the prison service conference in Brighton yesterday.

"I remain concerned that too many fine defaulters are committed to prison. There are up to 500 fine defaulters in prison at any one time."

Mr Howard said they imposed an additional burden on hard pressed prisons, adding: "And the fine is expunged — thereby frustrating the court's intention that the prisoner pay something back to the community."

The decision coincides with a sharply rising prison population — expected to hit a record 53,000 in the next fortnight at a time of a 13.3 per cent cut in running costs.

There is also increasing public concern over the jail-

ing of petty offenders, particularly women with severe multiple debt problems who have not paid television licences and poll tax defaulters.

The latest published figures show that 22,500 fine defaulters were jailed in 1994 — making up more than a quarter of those sent to prison that year. Most were in prison for less than a week. Forty per cent of the men involved were jailed for failing to pay motoring fines. Nearly a fifth of the 1,450 women jailed were imprisoned for failing to have a television licence.

The Home Secretary confirmed yesterday that he is to introduce a white paper later this year which will introduce minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers and "two strikes and you're out" mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists.

This package could add 10,000 to 20,000 inmates to the annual prison population.

Mr Howard refused to outline what alternative measures he will use to ensure that fines remain a credible court sentence. Among options canvassed are greater use of community service orders; money payment supervision orders under which probation officers help defaulters sort out debts; and electronic tagging.

The decision to end the use of jail was widely welcomed by penal reformers and within the prison service. David Roddan of the Prison Governors' Association said Mr Howard's statement was very welcome.

Paul Cavadino of the Penal Affairs Consortium said the use of prison for people whose original offences were insufficiently serious to deserve custody was an indefensible misuse of the over-stretched prison system.

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers warned that even if all fine defaulters were diverted from jail it would only save £14 million.

"The Home Secretary's sentencing package will add 20,000 to the prison population at a cost of £400 million a year. Prisons face an unprecedented crisis."

The jailing of fine defaulters was highlighted last week in the Guardian, which said that thousands of women were trapped in a cycle of poverty, law-breaking, court fines and eventually prison. Jail sentences imposed on women often caused immense distress and extra costs for care of dependent children.

The sacked prison service director-general, Derek Lewis, issued a summons yesterday against the Home Office to force the disclosure of key official documents relating to his dismissal.

Mr Lewis's First Division Association, said that four months after his dismissal the Home Office had not yet made any proposal to resolve the matter and pay compensation.

The Home Secretary said last night that it was "an entirely routine matter in litigation" that would be dealt with by the lawyers.

Leighton centenary celebration recreates high period of Victorian art



The actress, Dorothy Dene, (left) will play Lord Leighton's model, Kate Hargreaves, who posed for the painting

Flaming June, right, in the centenary celebrations of the artist at Leighton House, Holland Park, London, starting on Friday and

running until April 21. Leighton (1830-96), President of the Royal Academy, aesthete, bon vivant and creator of the Trafalgar

Square House, created his house as a palace in celebration of the manse of the arts. It has been recreated for this year's celebrations

down to the William Morris furnishings and the smells of cigars, linseed oil and turpentine. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

## City 'playing Mr Bumble with school dinners'

David Ward

**L**ABOUR-controlled Liverpool city council was accused yesterday of employing workhouse-style practices when it emerged that officers had suggested school dinner portions could be cut by 10 per cent to save money.

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, said: "It conjures up ideas of Mr Bumble telling Oliver Twist he cannot have any more. Are we going to see a generation of Oliver Twists pleading for more food? There are plenty of other areas they should be tackling before they take the food off a child's plate."

Liverpool has to find ways of saving £28.5 million to stay within its capping limit. In the search for cuts, education officers came up with a range of possibilities.

One option was that Liverpool might join other authorities in providing meals only for children entitled to free dinners; another was for the 10 per cent cut in portions.

The officers commented: "Meal portions are not large and this reduction would be in free school meals which for many children is their main meal of the day."

The imprecise wording started a row, with Labour insisting the comment implied that the cut could prove unacceptable because the children would suffer most would be the city's poorest. But Paul C'lein, the Liberal Democrats'



education spokesman, was happy to go along with a more literal interpretation — that a Labour council might target those children who received free dinners and accounted for 63 per cent of the school meals budget.

Their portions would be cut but pupils who handed over 80p in primary schools and 90p in secondaries would find their meal sizes unchanged. "That's the way it reads," said Mr C'lein.

He added: "What will they say to children? Last week you had three sausages, this week you can only have two? It's an absolute disgrace."

Neville Bann, Labour chairman of the education committee, suggested that Mr C'lein's fury was based on a misreading of the officers' comment.

"I want to stress that none of the options include offering smaller portions to those pupils who receive free meals as opposed to those who pay for meals," he said. "Such claims are, at best, a misunderstanding of the position or, at worst, malicious scaremongering."

## Scott leads calls for early access to arms report

Richard Norton-Taylor and Michael White

**T**HE Government last night was facing a public relations disaster over its handling of tomorrow's Scott Report as the judge charged with investigating the arms-Iraq controversy led frustrated MPs and peers in last-minute demands for an end to news management over its publication.

It emerged that Sir Richard Scott strongly urged the Government to release his report at least an hour before Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, gets up in the Commons at 3.30pm tomorrow to give the Government's verdict on the 1,800-page document.

This, the judge said, would help public debate and discussion to take place on a balanced and informed basis. He said it would be doubtful whether this would be achieved if the Government continued to insist that the report was made generally available only after Mr Lang rises to make his statement.

Sir Richard's concerns were set out in a letter from Christopher Muttukumaru, the Scott inquiry secretary, to Mr Lang's private office. It came amid renewed claims of further attempts to undermine the Scott report in an attempt to take place on a balanced and informed basis.

Turn to page 2, column 7

## Bruton warms to Major's plan for Northern Ireland

David Sharrock and Patrick Wintour

**T**HE reconciliation of the Irish and British governments over the peace process took a step forward yesterday when the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, significantly warmed to John Major's proposals for elections in Northern Ireland.

However, Mr Bruton said his condition for considering backing elections was that they should follow Dublin's proposed "proximity" talks and then "lead directly and speedily, without equivocation, to all-party negotiations".

Mr Bruton's speech, which came in a Dail debate on the IRA's Docklands bomb attack last Friday, marked a change in tone from his original reaction to the elections proposal. He had said elections would "pour petrol on the flames".

British ministers expressed quiet satisfaction last night at the Irish prime minister's softening attitude towards elections. Although Downing Street did not disguise its continued scepticism about proximity talks, it is possible that these talks could be woven into the British plan for elections.

The two prime ministers are expected to meet soon to discuss the plan.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Major is shortly to set out a consultation paper on his election plan. A key element

will be the speed with which the Prime Minister envisages the elected body moving to all-party talks.

In an attempt to assuage sceptical nationalists, ministers privately promise that a timetable will be set out in the legislation on the elections. Ministers claim Unionists have signed up to this in the past week.

However, the new optimism was dealt a blow when by a lack of enthusiasm for Mr Major's plan from the pivotal figure of John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP. "We have been down that road twice before. Twice before, it ended in disaster and made the problem worse."

He added that Unionist parties in the elections might "seek headline mandates", and "some parties could seek mandates not to talk to certain people" — a reference to a Unionist boycott of talks with Sinn Fein until the decommissioning of IRA weapons had begun.

John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist deputy leader, underscored this point by insisting that agreement on the phased decommissioning was a precondition of talks.

A further and more immediate stumbling block is likely to be Britain's insistence that it will not allow Sinn Fein to enter all-party talks, or even possibly stand in the elections, without a return to the ceasefire.

But the Ulster Unionist Martin Smyth said his party

would hold proximity talks with Sinn Fein before elections — as did Ian Paisley — even if the IRA called a ceasefire.

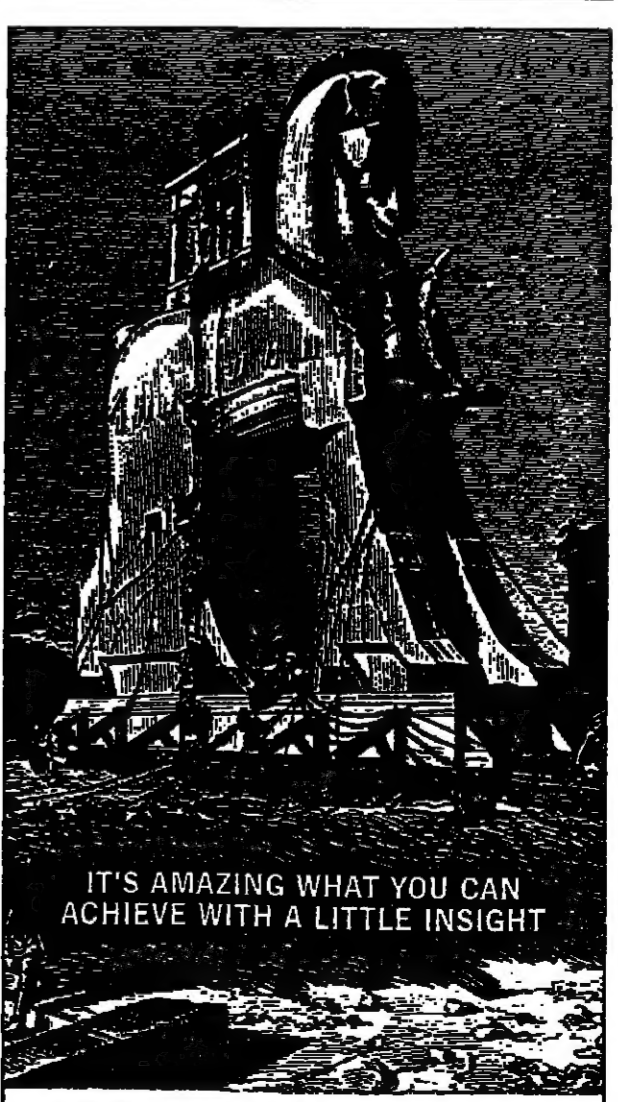
Mr Bruton told the Dail he was satisfied that a viable basis existed for restoring peace. He asked the IRA to think again. "A quarter-century of violence did not progress any of your political aims. Indeed, it divided Ireland more than ever before."

He said he had made an act of faith by believing and trusting Sinn Fein. "I believed that they had made an irreversible commitment to peace. That act of faith has now been thrown back in my face by the IRA."

However, Mr Bruton said he shared the Republicans' frustration at the slow pace of the peace process.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, said yesterday that putting the peace process back on track would be difficult. "The only way is for real talks and all-party talks. That is one of the reasons why it collapsed, because the British broke the commitments they made to bring that about."

Meanwhile, the Irish opposition Fianna Fail leader, Bertie Ahern, launched a stinging attack on Mr Major's government. He said: "Over the past 18 months, they singularly failed to provide any credible or broadly acceptable route into all-party talks. In public at least, it was not apparent that they had lifted a finger to urge the Unionists towards talks."



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Interflor



Sketch

Hairy humour, perfect timing



Simon Hoggart

At 3.13pm, Michael Fabricant (C. South Staffs) was writing for Prime Minister's Question Time. He had tabled question three, about the effect of economic indicators upon the town of Lichfield. Clearly a vital subject, at least in Lichfield, and the third question is almost invariably reached.

debate. The informed debate will now take place 10 days later. Mr Fabricant tapped his order paper against his knee. At 3.20pm the Prime Minister blamed the confusion on the Labour Party. John Prescott and Robert Cook had, without a single scruple, made plain time and again what they believed would be the outcome.

We were still on question one. Mr Fabricant's eyes bulged alarmingly. At 3.26pm Mr Ashdown asked why civil servants criticised by Scott could not get their copies early. Mr Major replied that the report was being given only to ministers and civil servants who needed to help prepare the Government's response.

One wonders what Michael Howard would think of the arrangement by which the prosecution saw the evidence only when the trial started. Labour MPs cheered cheerfully (and cheered jeerfully). "It's the way he tells 'em", someone shouted. It was 3.28pm, and Mr Fabricant looked imploringly toward the Speaker.

"Mr Nigel Spearing!" she shouted. "Number Two!" he replied. This was about fire stations in east London. The clock passed 3.29pm. One minute to go. Mr Major began a disquisition on the merits of Docklands. Mr Fabricant's hair did a little dance on his head, as if in a TV cartoon.

First night

Welcome import hits the target

Michael Billington

Dead White Males

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

WE SEE far too little Australian drama in Britain. But Patrick Sandford at the Nuffield Southampton has had the wit to import David Williamson's controversial comedy, Dead White Males, which stirred things up in Sydney last year with its attack on fashionable literary theory and the wider excesses of the thought police.

Even though the play does not always fight fair, you have to admire Williamson's bravery andchutzpah. His heroine, Angela Judd, is an English literature student who falls under the spell of a modish professor, Grant Swain, who uses all the right buzz words.

But when Angela, who communes nightly with the outraged ghost of Shakespeare, does a research project into her own family, she discovers that human beings are full of unrecognisable contradictions: that her chauvinist grandad was capable of unacknowledged altruism and that her passionately feminist mother both relished her career and felt pangs of guilt at the neglect of her daughter.

Convicted British killer is 'impatient' for execution

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

BRITISH serial killer John Martin Scripps, sentenced to death in Singapore for the murder of a South African tourist, has said he does not want to appeal for clemency and is impatient for authorities to proceed with his execution.

The petition for clemency to Singapore's president offered 36-year-old Scripps the last chance to escape the gallows after he decided last month not to appeal against his conviction for murder. "He has instructed lawyers that he does not intend to put in a personal appeal for clemency. He wants the end of it quickly," said a British High Commission spokesman.



Muslim refugees, like these evacuated from Srebrenica, found most Serbs looked the other way

Muslims find rare sanctuary in tiny Serb Schindler's Ark

Julian Borger in Prijedor

HE HAS the sort of face you see a thousand times beneath a policeman's cap at Serb checkpoints — rounded and reddened by a lifetime of ham and plum brandy. He has the same bleary-eyed stare, the same gruff manner and the same affinity for guns. It is hardly surprising that the local Muslim community hesitated before putting its trust in Dusko. But now there is no one else left to trust.

In Prijedor, the epicentre of ethnic cleansing — where liberal Serbs looked the other way or emigrated as thousands of Muslims were expelled, imprisoned or murdered — Dusko did the unthinkable. The Serb policeman's son stayed and tried to help. At first he helped individual families. But last October, he established a network of sympathetic Prijedor Serbs to help distribute food to starving Muslims and shelter them from the constant, casual brutality of the rebel regime in Pale.

MoD pregnancy sacking awards near £55m

David Henslow Westminster Correspondent

COMPENSATION paid to pregnant women discharged from the armed forces will exceed £55 million and the total number claiming will reach 5,150, according to documents listing every award made by the Ministry of Defence. Lists of more than 5,000 awards have been deposited in the House of Commons library following a demand for the information from David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman. Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, declined to answer his parliamentary question seeking information on the figures to avoid publication in Hansard.

The MoD admits that 5,150 women have had legitimate claims for unfair dismissal between 1978 and 1990. The documents show that 5,027 claims have been settled, costing £54,896,254.12. Another 123 cases remain. The largest number of claims have come from former army personnel — 1,972 cases, including 16 women receiving more than £100,000. The RAF has had 1,906 cases, with 12 people receiving more than £100,000. The navy has had 1,147 cases, with four receiving more than £100,000.

of protection that is respected in Prijedor. For all Dusko's bravado, he is unwilling to have his real name published. "They'll know who it is anyway," he says, but believes there is no point in making it easy. International aid workers in the nearby city of Banja Luka believe Dusko has helped hundreds of Prijedor Muslims survive during the war. He has fed and sheltered them, or helped get them out of Serb-controlled territory. A Muslim amputee, one of a group of Dusko's people sitting on his sofa earlier this week, said: "For us, there is nowhere else. If we were still in the streets, we would be dead."

He lost his leg while on compulsory "work brigade" duty on the front line last September. He returned to Prijedor to find that his parents had been expelled, and his wife and children had fled to Croatia. "What he has done is remarkable," a United Nations official in Banja Luka said. "There are plenty of instances of Serb families trying to help individual Muslim neighbours, but he has gone further than any of them."

The risks are enormous. If I am a Serb and I help you, a Muslim, and they find out, then I'm worse than you because I'm a traitor." The mufti in Banja Luka, Ibrahim Halilovic, broke his cautious silence last month to thank Serbs who helped Muslims over the past four years. But he said it was still too dangerous to reveal their names or how they operated. The risks could be high. A Red Cross worker in Banja Luka said several Serbs suspected of helping Muslims had been thrown out of their homes — particularly last year, when tens of thousands of Serb refugees fled from Croatia and western Bosnia after Croatian and Bosnian government offensives.



Catherine Birtwistle with her husband Harvey Gates

Some awards have been paid more than £100,000. The navy has had 1,147 cases, with four receiving more than £100,000. Some awards have been strongly contested, including the £150,000 paid to Catherine Birtwistle, of Burton in Leicestershire, North Yorkshire, who resigned from the now disbanded Women's Royal Army Corps in 1981, and had earlier rejected an MoD offer of just over £2,000.

Mrs Birtwistle, aged 47, who now has three children, joined the corps in 1973 when regulations demanded that pregnant women should leave the service. When she resigned, she had reached the rank of major. She is now a major in the Territorial Army and second-in-command of the officer training corps at the University of Liverpool. She was awarded the £150,000 at an industrial tribunal in Manchester. The lists of awards also disclose a growing demand from women to return to military service after having children. Ninety-seven women returned to the Royal Navy in 1985 compared with one in 1981, while 186 returned to the RAF in 1995 compared with 48 in 1993. Those who took maternity leave in the army increased from three in 1990 to 205 in 1994.

When asked why he takes the risk, Dusko loses some of his fluency. The question seems to embarrass him. He points out that he married a Muslim, linking him to a network of his wife's relatives. "Sixty per cent of the Muslims here were in mixed marriages. Every one here was related to each other," he says. His wife trails off, and it is immediately clear why he is tongue-tied. It is the wrong question.

One of his Muslim friends in Banja Luka rephrases the question. "What we want to know, and what the Serbs will have to answer, is why were there so few like Dusko?"

Stakeholder vision of US Democrats

Will Hutton

DEMOCRAT party leaders are planning to announce sweeping proposals later this month to overhaul US company law and taxation in order to establish an American version of the stakeholder economy, so attempting to boost falling US wages and arrest the hollowing out of the US economy. A "high wage task force", set up after the party's defeat in the 1994 Congressional elections, has recently completed a study lasting more than a year. Its mandate was to report on how the Democrats can best respond to the fall in American wages, growing job insecurity and the export of US jobs — while refuting Republican charges that they remain a tax and spend party unwilling to cut the US budget deficit.

The 80-page report, a copy of which is in the hands of the Guardian, calls for new socially responsible behaviour by business and the financial markets, raising investment, employment and wages inside the US. It proposes tax and regulatory incentives and exemptions to persuade US companies to set themselves up as "R-Corps" who in return would have to meet minimum targets for investment, training, worker benefits and socially responsible behaviour.

In addition, the task force recommends a turnover tax of 0.5 per cent on the buying and selling of company securities and new measures that will encourage "investment pools" of committed company owners — "R-Funds" — who will pledge long-term support for American companies, thus reducing the financial

pressures on companies to avoid takeover.

A Responsible Business Charter Act would extend the principles to American companies operating abroad. US firms would be expected to trade in countries that did not observe similar labour and environmental standards, nor to establish headquarters in countries without minimum wage legislation. US firms, like their counterparts in the European Union under the Social Chapter, would be expected to establish works-councils of employer-employee teams — or lose R-Corp status. "We would strive to change in a fundamental way the behaviour of American businesses and financial markets to assume responsibility for creating high levels of economic growth," says the Task Force Report. "We are determined to rebuild the standard of living for America's working families and restore the American dream."

Qualification for R-Corps status would include meeting the following criteria: 50 per cent of all investment over three years to be in the US;

- accept unions or offer works-councils; offer 90 days notice for all redundancies; establish employee stock ownership plans for at least half the workforce; spend 2 per cent of the total wage bill on training; operate only in countries with labour and environmental standards similar to the US.

The Task Force proposes cutting business taxes for R-Corps by more than 40 per cent. Democratic leaders propose launching the report before the end of the month.

Scott leads demands for early access to arms-to-Iraq report

continued from page 1

and Paddy Ashdown demanded that MPs be allowed to read the report for at least an hour before the government presents its £1 million defence. Not only is the report unprecedented in complexity, Mr Blair protested, but so was "the campaign before the report has been published to discredit the judge who conducted the inquiry".

Their counterparts in the Lords, Ivor Richard and Roy Jenkins, engineered a short debate and vote on the issue, which Tory whips survived by 152 votes to 133. Two former heads of the civil service, Lords Croham and Bancroft, as well as two law lords, Lords Acland and Roskill, voted against the Government, despite the assurance from Lord Cranborne: "I too would greatly deplore any attempt by colleagues in government to denigrate Sir Richard Scott".

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older  
of US  
rats



Massimo Troisi (right) is up for a posthumous Oscar for *Il Postino*, as are Elizabeth Shue and Nicholas Cage (top left) for *Leaving Las Vegas*, and Anthony Hopkins (above left) for *Nixon*.

### British talent threatens to eclipse Hollywood in race for Oscars

**Christopher Freed in Los Angeles**  
**A** FIGLET, a dead man and a sub-titled Italian film will compete for this year's Oscars in a mixed field, in which Hollywood fares poorly but a Briton is nominated in every acting category and two are in the running for best director.

Another British entry is Mike Figgis, nominated for best director for his film about a suicidal drunk, *Leaving Las Vegas*. He competes with Britain's Michael Radford, who directed the Italian film *Il Postino* (The Postman), the first foreign movie to be in the running for best film in



Michael Figgis: director of *Leaving Las Vegas*



Michael Radford: director of *Il Postino* (The Postman)



Emma Thompson: twice for *Sense and Sensibility*



Meryl Streep: competing for best actress award

23 years. Its star, Massimo Troisi, died at the age of 41 just after the film was completed, but could win the first posthumous best actor Oscar since Peter Finch in 1976.

Britain's Tim Roth is nominated as best supporting actor for *Rob Roy*, and Kate Winslet for best supporting actress for *Sense and Sensibility*. In the animated feature section, Nick Park from Bristol could win his third Oscar for *A Clove Shave*.

Although the US space flight drama *Apollo 13* leads with nine nominations, its star, Tom Hanks, was denied his chance of a third acting Oscar in a row. In a surprise success, Babe — a beguiling story about a sheep-herding piglet — has won seven nominations, including best film, equalling *Sense and Sensibility*.

Thompson competes for best actress with Susan Sarandon in the death penalty story *Dead Man Walking*, Elizabeth Shue as a prostitute in *Leaving Las Vegas*, Meryl Streep in *Bridges of Madison County*, and Sharon Stone in *Casino* — for which Stone

### Joan bites back with tale of the amoeba

Ian Katz in New York

**A**LEXIS Carrington got her revenge. Giving evidence for the second time in her legal battle with Random House, Joan Collins summoned every one of her famous feminine wiles and reminded a Manhattan court why she was a star of the screen if not the printed page.

antly that "writing is a creative process that is going on all the time". It was not "a legalistic static, sterile thing", but rather "an amoeba... moving all the time".

In marked contrast to her performance on the witness stand last week, when she was reduced to tears by the withering questioning of Random House's lawyer Robert Callagy, Ms Collins smilingly shrugged off inconsistencies in her testimony like a dieter caught with a chocolate éclair.

It was perhaps an unfortunate comparison in a trial that has dwelt at length and unflatteringly on the quality of Ms Collins's prose, which has been described variously as primitive, clichéd, disjointed, melodramatic and just plain ridiculous.

When the attorney approached her to resume his attack yesterday, she flashed him a flirtatious smile and said: "Oh Mr Callagy, you're not supposed to come close to me. Not without permission."

The case hinges on the meaning of the term "complete manuscript" which appears in an unusual clause written into Ms Collins's contract with Random House by her then Hollywood agent, the late Irving "Swifty" Lazar.

Ms Collins was in commanding form from the moment she stepped on to the stand yesterday morning. In place of the exasperation and embarrassment that marked her performance last week, she affected a weary nonchalance as Mr Callagy forced her to acknowledge a string of inconsistencies between her testimony this week and in two previous depositions.

But when Mr Callagy asked how she had answered the same question in a 1994 deposition, she conceded that she had replied: "God no, I thought it was really good."

Neither has made more than \$16 million (£10.5 million) at the box office. Sean Penn could win best actor for his part as the condemned man in *Dead Man Walking*. Along with Hopkins, he is up against the Globe winner Nicholas Cage, the star of *Leaving Las Vegas*, and Richard Dreyfuss in the Disney war-junker *Mr Holland's Opus*.

The former Dynasty star, who played Alexis, is countering for \$4 million she insists the publisher owes her.

Competing for best film are *Apollo 13*, *Braveheart*, *Babe*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Il Postino*. While the Italian entry and *Leaving Las Vegas* were both heavily promoted,

Ms Collins was in commanding form from the moment she stepped on to the stand yesterday morning. In place of the exasperation and embarrassment that marked her performance last week, she affected a weary nonchalance as Mr Callagy forced her to acknowledge a string of inconsistencies between her testimony this week and in two previous depositions.

She refused even to be hurried by the famously brusque Judge Ira Grammermann, a man whose determination to speed up the wheels of justice has earned him the nickname, "the Rocket Docket", in New York legal circles.

Ordered by the judge to state precisely the point at which she stopped writing one novel and moved on to the next, she explained def-

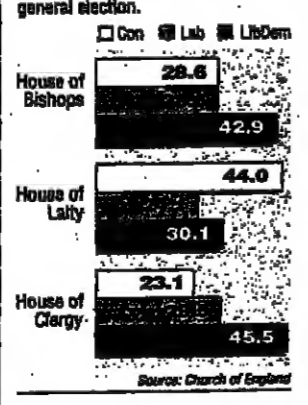
Letters, page 8

### Anglican clergy lean to Lib Dems

Madeline Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

**A** CLERGY which is more likely to vote for the Liberal Democrats than any other party maintained a congregation dominated by ageing Conservative voters with a conscience, according to figures published yesterday in a study of the membership of the General Synod of the Church of England.

### Church vote



Nearly half of the House of Clergy (45.3 per cent) and House of Bishops (42.9 per cent) voted Liberal Democrat in the 1992 election, while Conservatives attracted 44 per cent of the House of Laity.

churchgoer, who gives the Church an 80 per cent approval rating for meeting spiritual needs. What will concern Church leaders is the ageing profile of Synod lay members; between 1970 and 1995 the proportion of those under 40 fell by two thirds from 33 per cent to 8.4 per cent. Those over 60 now make up a third of the assembly running the Church.

### NHS managers admit pay error

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**T**HE first health manager to attract criticism for his large pay increases today admits he must share responsibility for giving NHS management a bad name.

58.8 million cuts and hundreds of job losses. Mr Griffiths, however, became the highest paid NHS manager with a car for himself and one for his wife. In 1992-93, his total remuneration was £103,000.

Mr Griffiths, who was chief executive of the flagship Guy's hospital trust, in south London, says health managers have contributed to their own image problems by awarding themselves big rises and bonuses. "We have got ourselves a bad name not so much for setting a rate for the job, but for rewarding ourselves at an annual rate greater than the rest of the staff who have put in the same kind of effort," says Mr Griffiths.

Figures released yesterday show that the pay bill for NHS managers in England rose by more than 80 per cent from £169.8 million in 1989-90 to £723.3 million in 1994-95. A recent survey put the average total remuneration of trust chief executives at £85,000.

counter-rumour spread. Yet during the first few days of the trial, only the FT, the Guardian, the BBC and Channel 4 news allocated reporters on a full-time basis. Only when the case collapsed did others trickle in.

**The Guardian's coverage of the Scott Report on Friday will be unique and unrivalled. Don't take our word for it. Take The Independent's**

Independent, February 13, pp.16/17

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# 'Shambles' alleged in Law Society

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

THE Law Society, split into two camps since the election last summer of maverick president Martin Mears, was embroiled in a new controversy yesterday after a fellow council member launched a devastating attack on him in an "open letter" to the profession.

Eileen Pembroke, who was defeated for the presidency by Mr Mears, called him "seriously bad news for us all" in an article in *The Lawyer*, and called for a candidate to stand against him next summer, when he plans to seek a new term. She accused him and his vice-president, Robert Sayer, of turning the society's council meetings into a shambles, creating a climate of fear and distrust, and preventing reform through "arrogance and incompetence".

The society's governing council has had to organise a special meeting today after much of the last meeting was taken up with an angry attack by Mr Mears on the head of

public relations, Sue Stapley, and attempts by other council members to defend her. He questioned her motives in circulating a Mail on Sunday article accusing him of hypocrisy in his private life through the office cuttings service.

Law Society staff say morale has slumped to an all-time low, with Mr Mears and Mr Sayer regarding many of them as enemies. Mr Sayer last month accused two senior staff members, Walter Merricks and Andrew Lockley, of "an absolute, blatant, arrogant attempt to sabotage" a paper he wrote suggesting ways of raising conveyancing fees.

Insiders say the election of Mr Mears and Mr Sayer, on a ticket to reform what many grassroots solicitors saw as a bloated bureaucracy indifferent to their concerns, was a salutary experience for the council. It took on board the "message that it had to reform, but the pair's insistence on trying to bulldoze reforms through a system which works on consensus has led to a standstill."

Ms Pembroke said there was "a climate of fear and distrust" at the society's headquarters in central London.

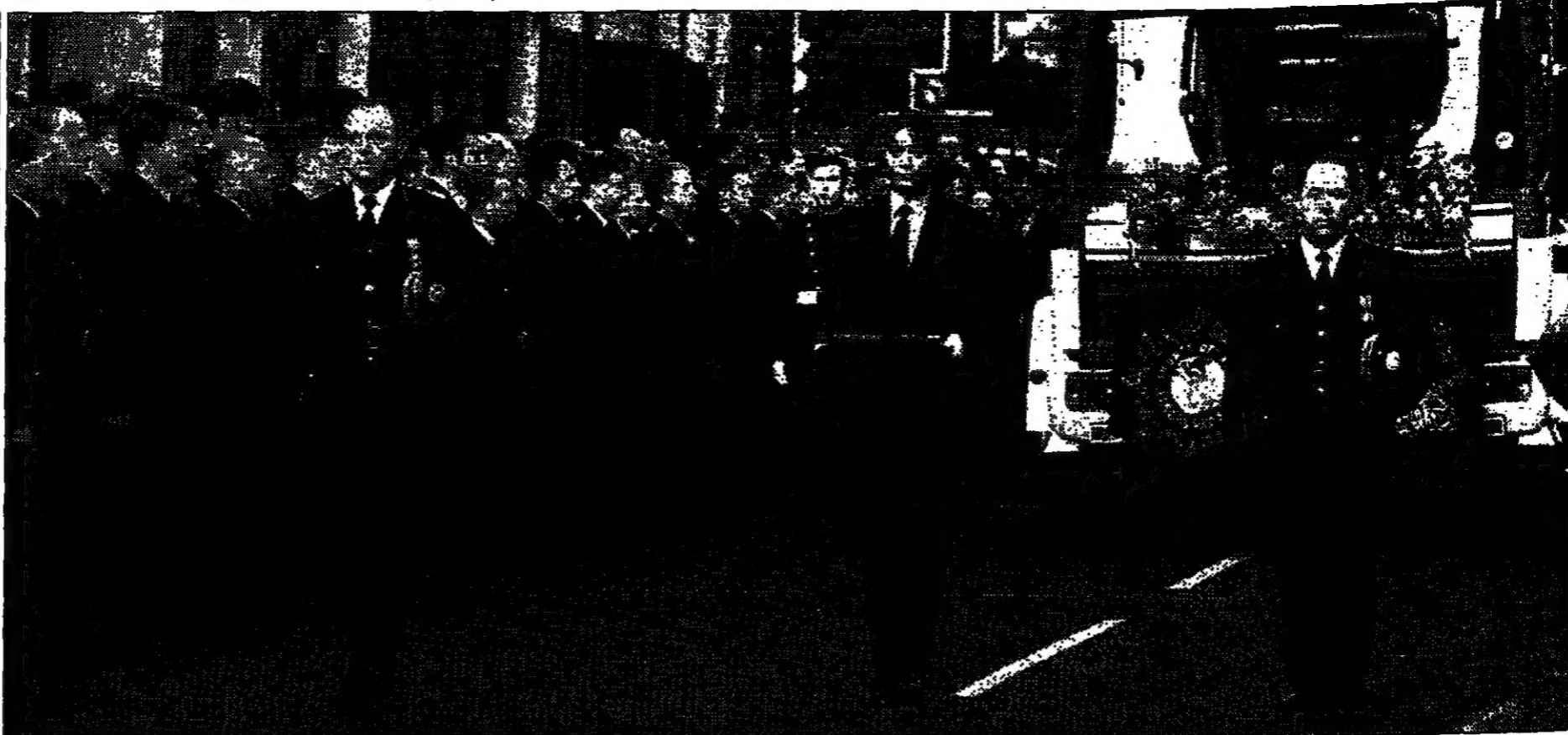
Staff felt that "their time and efforts are wasted. It is increasingly difficult for them to undertake their jobs or keep their teams together. They are attacked by both Robert and Martin in the press and in letters to us."

Monthly council meetings at which decisions are taken "are now a shambles through lack of leadership and partisan intervention. Both posture from the podium, attacking council members and staff alike."

Mr Mears said: "It's the same old rubbish she was producing during the election. Wherever I go I am told I have more support than I did six months ago."



Martin Mears: 'Climate of fear' claimed



More than 1,000 firefighters from Avon and Derbyshire lined the route yesterday to Derby Cathedral to honour Fleur Lombard, the first British woman firefighter to die on service. Fleur, aged 21, a member of Blinewatch at Speedwell station, Bristol, died when the roof collapsed inside a Bristol supermarket where she was fighting a blaze. PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS THORPE

## Man 'killed tormentor'

### One-armed attacker endured 3 years of misery before snapping

David Ward

A ONE-armed man tormented for three years by gangs of youths snapped and killed a 14-year-old schoolboy with a knife, a court heard yesterday.

When he heard the boy had died, he is alleged to have told police: "I'm glad he's dead."

Leo Gavan, aged 36, of Huyton, Merseyside, appeared before Knowsley magistrates charged with the murder of Lee Kinch, also of Huyton, who died on Sunday. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

The court heard Mr Gavan's torment had begun

when he was moved into his second-floor flat by social workers three years ago.

His solicitor, Julian Linskill, said Mr Gavan, whose arm was amputated at the elbow when he was seven, said the flat, with no lock on the front door, was in a virtually abandoned block.

"Over the last three years my client's life has been made a misery for no other reason than his manifest handicap," said Mr Linskill. "Bricks have been repeatedly thrown through his window. His flat has been trashed following break-ins."

Mr Linskill said youths had posted burning rubbish

through his letter box and sprayed obscene graffiti about him on walls. He said Mr Gavan, who is unemployed, had thrown his TV set from his window on the night of the killing after stones had been hurled at him.

He added: "At the end of his tether, he grabbed a knife and left the flat to chase the youths, with, I'm afraid, tragic results."

He said Mr Gavan had separated from his wife eight years ago and had no contact with his three children.

Marie Carr, prosecuting, said youngsters had been throwing stones at the flat. Lee was not among them but he had been in the street when Mr Gavan appeared.

There was no bail application. A committal date was set for April 9.

## Six convicted of gang-rape after police shield victims

SIX youths were ordered to be held in custody yesterday after being convicted of gang-raping two 15-year-old girls who for the past year have been protected by police after threats were made against them.

Judge Gerald Gordon asked for pre-sentence reports on the youths because of their ages, but told the Old Bailey they would be "wholly inappropriate in the light of the material I have heard in court".

One of the gang's victims was taken to the basement of a block of flats where 14 teenage boys — some still at large — queued up to rape or attempted to rape her.

Her friend was kept in an area on the first floor where a smaller number of boys raped or molested her, said Michael Worsley QC, prosecuting.

Nine alleged members of the gang — five aged 16 and four aged 15 — were later arrested. The others have not yet been caught.

The nine had variously denied rape and attempted rape in Brixton, south London, on October 28, 1994. Two were acquitted of the charges last week and a third was cleared yesterday.

After the case, police said the two girls were now terrified to go out, because of the trauma they still suffered and fear of reprisals from friends of the attackers.

Police had to take special security measures to protect the girls after one was threatened she would be shot if she gave evidence at the trial.

"They have had to face real fear, threats and continued pressure for over a year," said PC Allison Pike, who helped to counsel the girls.

## News in brief

### Germany told to end ban on British beef

THE European Commission yesterday demanded that the German government act to end the ban on British beef imposed by three German states due to fears over mad-cow disease or BSE. The commission gave the federal government one month to ensure that the ban is lifted since it breached European Union laws on free movement of agricultural products, a commission spokesman said. Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Rhineland-Palatinate last week blocked imports of British beef. A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food welcomed the commission's move, saying that Britain has been pressing Brussels to act for some time. — Julie Wolf

### Appeal to free editor

AMNESTY International last night called on the Home Office to either charge or release a Sikh newspaper editor who has been in prison for nearly a year facing deportation for unspecified reasons of "national security". Ragbir Singh Johal, who has lived in the West Midlands for the past 15 years, is claiming political asylum. In a report released today, the rights organisation said he risked being tortured or killed if sent to India. A Court of Appeal application for judicial review of the decision to deport him and the legality of his detention without charge or trial will be heard on Friday. — Owen Boucott

### Contraception advice wanted

DOCTORS are not giving women the information they want about contraception, the Contraceptive Education Service reported today. A survey of 744 women aged 16 to 49 found that 40 per cent wanted to know more about possible side effects, and 24 per cent wanted to know more about health risks like thrombosis. More than 60 per cent of women questioned cited side effects as a key factor in their decision to stop using a previous method of contraception. Over half of former condom-users said the dissatisfaction of their partner had stopped them employing this method.

### Writ served on Rifkind

THE Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, a major general, a brigadier, and four other soldiers were yesterday served with a writ from a drummer in the Grenadier Guards claiming damages for assault, false imprisonment, and lack of medical care. Private Stephen Jordan, aged 23, was released from close arrest in December when lawyers obtained a writ of habeas corpus against the Ministry of Defence. He is expected to be court-martialed next month on charges of theft, and is now confined to Victoria barracks in Windsor. — Owen Boucott

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# That's that as pop heart throbs confirm demise

Alex Bellis

**T**ENAGE girls and many gay men are facing a loveless Valentine's Day as they struggle to come to terms with the demise of their favourite heart throbs, Take That.

The Manchester foursome, the most successful British band of the decade, confirmed music industry rumour yesterday by saying that their next single, How Deep Is Your Love, will be their last.

Group member Gary Barlow, aged 25, broke the news at a press conference near Manchester airport.

He said: "Thanks for everybody's support in the last five years. You've been absolutely fantastic. Unfortunately the rumours are true. From today, it's no

more." Member Mark Owen, aged 24, added: "We do very much care about the fans, but we have done all we can do."

Take That's split has been on the cards ever since the departure last summer of its youngest member, Robbie Williams, aged 22. Owen, Jason Orange, aged 25, and Howard Donald, aged 27, appeared realistic about life after Take That. Asked if they might fade away, Owen said: "There's every chance of that."

Take That were five northern lads brought together five years ago by manager Nigel Martin Smith to emulate the success of US boy band New Kids On The Block. The band eventually had seven consecutive number one singles.



Take That, Manchester's riposte to US group New Kids on the Block, announcing at a press conference yesterday that they are splitting up

PHOTOGRAPH: RALF GROTHE

# Gummer pressed to kill film theme park plans

Green-minded Tories oppose Labour peer's £225m project

Ian King

**T**HE Environment Secretary, John Gummer, was under pressure last night to reject plans for a £225 million film theme park unveiled yesterday by the media group MAI, headed by Labour peer Lord Hollick, and the film company Warner Brothers.

The 150-acre complex planned for Hillingdon, West London, which would create up to 3,500 jobs, would be called Warner Brothers Movie World. The companies hope it would attract 2 million visitors from April to October each year, after opening in spring or summer 1999.

But Sir Michael Shersby, Tory MP for Uxbridge and president of the London Green Belt Council, said he would be asking Mr Gummer to veto the project.

"This huge development is entirely contrary to both the letter and the spirit of green

belt policy, which is intended to prevent further urban expansion around the built-up area of Greater London," Sir Michael said.

"It has become the symbol of the Government's desire to prevent the ruin of the countryside by excessive development. Any attempt to relax the rules must be prevented."

Richard Barnes, leader of the Conservative group on Labour-controlled Hillingdon borough council, said the prospect of 2 million people descending on the area filled him with "abject horror".

The complex is expected to win planning permission, but a public inquiry is likely before the plan goes ahead.

Lord Hollick, who is overseeing MAI's £3 billion merger with Daily Express owner United News & Media, said the studio would provide a shot in the arm to the British film industry.



Lord Hollick... teamed up with Warner Bros

theme park. "It will celebrate the best, the dearest in British film-making, and will feature a large number of entertainments featuring films made at Baling, Shepperton, Pinewood and Elstree."

The park would have themed rides, shows based on Warner films and cartoons, including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Superman, and exhibits celebrating the history of British film.

Its studios would be the first built from scratch in Britain since the second world war. Lord Hollick said projects would include a TV soap opera, which would keep the studios busy all year. Warner and MAI have also set up a film production company.

The Pinewood and Shepperton studios are near the theme park site. Demand for film-making facilities in Britain has increased sharply in recent years, particularly from American companies.

Last summer the James Bond film Goldeneye had to be shot in a disused factory because the studio at Pinewood was fully booked.

"The studios will also reinforce west London's concentration of specialist media skills and help to retain the nation's wealth of film and television-making talent."

Lord Hollick, who was chairman of Shepperton Studios in the late 1980s, denied that MAI was contributing to the Americanisation of British culture with the

# Row over cancer link to power pylons

Owen Bowcott

**C**LAIMS that radioactive radon gas in the air may be the link between high-voltage pylons and an increased risk of cancer started fierce scientific controversy yesterday.

The row follows a study by a Bristol university team under Denis Henshaw, which proposed that radioactive radon naturally present in the atmosphere was attracted by electromagnetic fields in pylons and domestic electrical equipment.

His team's explanation linking electromagnetic fields and cancer was welcomed by

lawyers trying to sue electricity generating companies over childhood leukaemias.

But it was dismissed by the National Radiological Protection Board as "implausible".

The study, published in the International Journal of Radiation Biology, found electromagnetic fields activated the radon, known to be a cancer risk, and increased the potential dosage to humans.

"Our findings potentially solve the enigma that there has been no convincing mechanism by which electromagnetic fields could affect any of the known developmental stages of cancers," Professor Henshaw said.

"They show such fields can

concentrate a whole cocktail of potential carcinogenic agents. We believe the fields are able to increase the quantity of such agents absorbed by the body."

Professor Henshaw, funded by the Medical Research Council, experimented using domestic wire plugged in to the mains in the basement of his home, and measured radioactive radon particles.

The board, whose studies have dismissed claims of a risk from living under high-voltage power lines, yesterday said: "The weight of evidence would suggest electric fields will, if anything, slightly reduce human exposure to radon." Electric fields

tended to deposit radon particles on surfaces and make them less likely to be inhaled. But the board did concede evidence for an "association" between electromagnetic fields and cancer.

Martin Day, a solicitor suing Norweb over the death from leukaemia of a boy from Bolton, welcomed the research, saying: "It's a major breakthrough."

The Leukaemia Research Fund also welcomed the findings, but added: "This does not prove that electromagnetic fields cause leukaemia — but it does point to the need for further investigation into the effects of electromagnetic fields and radon."

# Met may hold biased officers liable after race case payout

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**A** BLACK detective yesterday won an estimated £30,000 damages from the Metropolitan police for racial discrimination in a settlement which raises the possibility that individual officers who discriminate against colleagues could be personally liable for damages.

The force has decided that if an officer has been on an equal opportunities training course he or she may be considered personally liable for any discriminatory actions. The Metropolitan Police Federation confirmed that it is having officers insured against such a possibility.

Detective Constable Peter Franklin and the Metropolitan Police reached agreement yesterday after he brought an action concerning his annual appraisal in 1992/93.

Mr Franklin, who was based at Epsom, Surrey, claimed he had been discriminated against and victimised because of his race. His complaint was withdrawn on payment of compensation.

Neither side would confirm the amount paid, but it is understood to be about £30,000. The Police Federation supported Mr Franklin, who has been in the service for 16 years, in his action.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan

Police commissioner, acknowledged in a statement that the appraisal was unfair and apologised for the distress caused. Mr Franklin was a "thoroughly professional and highly regarded officer and colleague".

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said the situation facing supervisory officers when giving below-average appraisals to black or female officers now needed to be clarified.

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# Manila hails child sex case

An unprecedented prosecution of a British man reflects growing concern in the Philippines, **Nick Cumming-Bruce reports**

SENATOR Ernesto Herrera had his way, people like the Briton Michael Clarke would be put to death with a lethal injection or whatever means the Philippines eventually adopts for judicial execution.

20 years in jail if convicted of promoting child prostitution being heard by a court in Olongapo City, the northern town gentry decaying outside the gates of the former US naval base of Subic Bay.

Welfare workers have no illusions that such steps will make much difference to what is almost a national industry. "You chop off one head on the monster and another one grows," sighs Fr Cullen.

The most active exploiters of children, social groups working with the children say. But individuals from Australia and Europe, particularly Germany, Britain and France are also high in the charts of offenders, they say.

Children and works with those detained for prostitution. Even when foreigners are arrested, most like the German businessman, Dutch student and US student picked up last month, are granted bail of perhaps a few hundred pounds and many skip the country.

But groups like Preda and Viranis have adopted a new tactic, working with police they can trust and lobbying authorities to appoint prosecutors known to be clean. In Olongapo, confidence inspired by the prosecutor in Mr Clarke's case has triggered a rash of abuse reports.

# China faces grain crisis

John Gittings

BEIJING is becoming seriously alarmed by the prospect of severe grain shortages which could lead to food riots in urban areas, says a leading expert on the environment.

The need for more grain imports will also complicate China's relations with the United States.

On the eve of the Chinese New Year festival, the state planning commission has warned that rising food prices will cause "a strong reaction from the masses".

Provincial governors are being asked to take personal responsibility for efforts to boost grain production.

Food shortages will be "politically destabilising when people feel trapped by rising prices," argues Lester Brown, president of the US-based Worldwatch Institute.

Mr Brown says that China's need for grain imports will increase its dependence upon the US — which dominates the world market — in spite of disagreements over Taiwan or trade. This is causing real concern to the Chinese leadership.

Chinese leaders now warn that "lagging agricultural growth... could threaten stability" and that China may face a "downward spiral" of grain production.

US Department of Agriculture figures show that maize prices in an already higher than average world levels, further increasing the demand for imports.

China previously rejected Mr Brown's argument that the economic boom is driving up food consumption but reducing the area of land for cultivation. Consumption of meat, the production of which requires large inputs of grain, has increased fivefold in 16 years.

Demand for beef climbed from 1.1 billion litres in 1981 to 13 billion in 1994. Meanwhile, China's grain area has dropped by more than 5 per cent in four years, while population has grown by nearly the same amount.

The number of provinces importing grain is predicted to rise from the present 12 to 22 by the end of the next decade.

"There is no historical precedent for what is happening in China today with such a vast population," says Mr Brown in a book published this week. "Europe's post-war transformation into a modern consumer society started from a higher industrial base and a smaller population."

Grain production is now levelling off in China well below population growth. It is also hindered by water shortages, which last year resulted in the Yellow River drying up. Critics say China should seek to impose tight control on water use, and tax the conversion of crop land.

\* Who Will Feed China? (Earthscan, £9.95)



Collared... A man is arrested during a demonstration in Dhaka yesterday to oppose Thursday's planned general election. PHOTOGRAPH: PAMEL RABHAN

# Student thugs wage pre-election war

Gang violence is a key element of politics, **Suzanne Goldenberg in Dhaka reports**

HABIBUR Rahman Habib carries the scars of a dozen stab and bullet wounds, souvenirs of university life.

Students have always played a central role in political life in Bangladesh. The campaign for independence started from a canteen at Dhaka University in 1968, as did the movement that eventually toppled General Hussain Mohammed Ershad in December 1990.

But that era of idealism has evaporated in the five tumultuous years since the return to parliamentary democracy, leaving a residue of violence where party affiliations scarcely matter.

"You've got to understand that in 1991, every party had arms — rifles, guns, revolvers, light machine-guns, grenades — everything," Mr Habib said. He is a full-time activist for the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Although he flinches at the description, Mr Habib is what is known locally as a *mastana* — the hoodlums widely held responsible for the steep rise in violence before Thursday's general elections.

Although both the BNP and the main opposition party, the Awami League, rely on so-called student leaders to enforce strikes or to get crowds out for demonstrations, the ruling party appears to have the upper hand.

The mastanas have penetrated all levels of public life: they run the protection racket in the bazaars of Dhaka's old city, and demand a cut in the award of government tenders.

At Dhaka university — the country's largest with 27,000 students — there are several shoot-outs a week between the security forces and rival campus gangs.

The permanent student life has its own charm for someone like Mr Habib, aged 30, a physics graduate from the north-eastern town of Sylhet. At least it's better than jail.

Habib was released on bail on February 5 after 17 months in prison, charged with the daylight shooting of a rival student leader.

Habib protests his innocence in the murder — "I was actually in the mosque at that time" — and in the 46 other charges pending against him.

Even though he was expelled by the official BNP student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhara Dal, during his prison sojourn, local BNP leaders were waiting at the jail on the day of his release. They hung garlands around his neck, handed him 100,000 takas (£1,600) and put him to work.

As you know it's a very critical situation in the country. I don't deny the party had an influence in my release. I am a front-ranking leader in student politics and they need me," Mr Habib said.

On Monday, he was summoned to Dhaka to receive his instructions for tomorrow's poll: "Politics determines what to hit, when to hit."

Although the election commission ordered the army on December 31 to crack down on hoodlums, the recent spread of violence from urban centres to the countryside suggests they have not succeeded.

The BNP youth wing claims to control all but one student dormitory at Dhaka university.

Leaders of its Awami League rival say this is because government agencies have given the BNP students access to a bigger arsenal — though they admit their own workers also indulge in violence.

"Sometimes arms do come to us," said Enamul Hoque Shamsen, president of the Bangladesh Student League.

"Officially they don't," Mr Habib knows the reign of a mastana is short-lived. "I have been involved such a long time that I can't get out of it now alive." But he is working on a career plan.

Mr Habib plans to fight the next election as an MP. Local BNP leaders have already promised him a ticket, he said.

English abbreviation the Japanese have adopted for office lady. They even write OL on their passport forms.

She uses a *wasupuro* (word processor) in her job but a *shinka tanku* (think tank) associated with a big bank, where she works with *sararimen* (salary-men) like Kenjiro. She sometimes complains of *sekiharu* (sexual harassment) on her way to work.

Cynics say that by the time the Japanese have got their tongues round the words it is often impossible to recognise their English roots.

A special art-form is the abbreviated portmanteau word put together from Japanese and English. Who would have guessed that karaoke originally comes from *kara*, the Japanese for empty, and *oka*, short for orchestra.

Sport, fashion, cooking and cosmetics have borrowed freely from abroad. Football commentators will often yell *nais shotto* when someone scores.

ISRAEL'S latest ban on the entry of Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has increased the risk of confrontation in Jerusalem as Muslims prepare for the climax of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Thousands of devout Muslims had been expected to gather in the city this week to pray in the al-Aqsa mosque. Most are now barred.

The closure of Israel's borders comes at the most sensitive time of the year. Tomorrow night, Muslims mark Lailat al-Qadr, the 27th day of Ramadan, on which the prophet Mohammed received from the heaven the first words of the Koran.

The following day is the last, and by tradition the most sacred, Friday in Ramadan. Saturday sees the start of the great feast of Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of the fast.

Israel imposed the closure — the latest of a series in recent years — in response to intelligence reports that militant Islamists could be planning an attack.

The prime minister, Shimon Peres, told the army radio station that there was information that an attack was imminent, "particularly at the end of 40 days since the finishing off of the Engineer".

The engineer, the *nom-de-guerre* of Yahya Ayyash — the master bombmaker of the main Islamist movement, Hamas, who was assassinated in the Gaza Strip by Israeli agents on January 5. The traditional mourning period for Muslims lasts 40 days.

Hamas has vowed to avenge the murder of Ayyash, whom Israel holds responsible for a spate of suicide bombings.

Palestinians are seething with anger at the latest blow to their livelihoods and religious observance.

"These measures are completely unjustified," said a senior officer in the Palestinian autonomous authority.

Other officials predicted that Israel would impose further security restrictions in the run-up to the election, expected on May 28 or June 4.

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## News in brief

### Californian justice system fails blacks

A STAGGERING 38 per cent of black Californian men in their 20s were in prison, held on remand or on probation last year, according to a new study.

The rate was about 1 in 14 for young Latino males, and 1 in 20 for white men. The findings of the Centre on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, based on a review of Californian statistics, were released on Monday.

While previous studies have suggested that blacks and whites use drugs at about the same rate, blacks were arrested for drug offences at approximately five times the rate of whites during the so-called "war on drugs" in 1989. This also greatly accelerated the incarceration of young black women, now serving sentences at rates close to that of white men.

The study also reveals that, in Los Angeles, blacks are charged under California's "Three Strikes, You're Out" law at 17 times the rate of whites.

In addition, one-third of whites who are first-time offenders had their charges reduced compared with one quarter of blacks and Latinos, and prison sentences for drug offences were also halved for blacks and Latinos than whites. Latinos went to prison at twice the rate of whites; blacks one-third more frequently. "The data supports disparity at every level of the criminal justice system," said Vincent Schiraldi, the centre's executive director. — *Los Angeles Times*.

### 'Monster' freed on appeal

PETRO PACCIANI, the elderly farmer convicted of being the "Monster of Florence", was yesterday acquitted on appeal, and was expected to be released from prison last night.

In reaching their verdict, the judges swept aside a last-minute attempt to get the court to hear evidence from new witnesses who were said to have watched Mr Pacciani commit one of the double murders of which he was found not guilty. His acquittal raised the chilling question of who, in reality, was the "Monster" — and whether he might strike again.

In 1994 the 69-year-old smallholder was sentenced to life imprisonment for seven dual homicides. But last month, a prosecutor told the appeal judges in Florence that the state no longer trusted the evidence on which he had been convicted.

Yesterday, however, the same prosecutor told the court that new evidence had been provided by four as yet unnamed witnesses. Two claimed to have watched Mr Pacciani and another man commit the 1985 murder of two French tourists. A total of 15 people were killed in the hills around Florence between 1985 and 1988. Mr Pacciani was acquitted of one of the double-murders at the original trial. — *John Hooper, Rome*.

### Papua rebels make contact

REBELS holding 13 hostages, including four Britons, in the remote Indonesian province of Irian Jaya have made contact with the Red Cross, the first time they have done so since January.

Since Friday, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been dropping leaflets from helicopters throughout the jungle, or handing them to tribespeople in the hope of contacting the kidnappers.

The rebel leader, Kalki (Kelly) Kwaliq, received the message sent by the ICRC through the Amungme tribespeople last week, "a source close to the rescue operation said yesterday. "Kwaliq has written a reply to the ICRC that he had received the message."

The communication was the first since the army lost radio contact with the Free Papua Movement rebels on January 25 after a bishop had met Mr Kwaliq.

Twenty-six people were seized on January 6 in Mapunduma, 100 miles from Wamena. The rebels freed 13 of them but six Europeans and seven Indonesians remain hostage.

The Europeans include Britons Daniel Start, William Oates, Amette van der Kolk and Anna McIvor. — *Reuter, Jakarta*.

### Kim calls for island's defence

STAKING his country's pride on a disputed islet in the Sea of Japan, South Korea's President Kim Young-San urged police in an unusual phone call yesterday to defend the tiny island.

The long-standing dispute between Japan and South Korea over Tok-do — called Takeshima in Japanese — has exploded into a diplomatic fray in the last week, after both countries planned to declare exclusive economic zones around the island.

"I ask that you take pride in your work and do your utmost," Mr Kim told maritime police, a spokesman said. "By defending Tok-do, you safeguard not only our land, but pride of the people."

Mr Kim's highly unusual telephone call to police Lieutenant Yang Jae-yul came after eight more police were added to the 36-man security force on Tok-do. — *A.P. Seoul*.

### Rushdie campaign targets EU

EUROPEAN Union members should rethink their relationship with Iran because of Tehran's failure formally to undertake to implement the *fajoo* against Salman Rushdie, the writer's supporters urged yesterday.

The International Rushdie Defence Committee has told the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, that the EU must replace its "critical dialogue" with Iran with a mechanism which would increase pressure to provide a guarantee or face aid and trade restrictions.

The EU said yesterday — the seventh anniversary of the publication of the *fajoo* — that it was renewing efforts to secure a written commitment from Tehran but there are fears that Italy, which currently holds the EU presidency, is not doing enough.

"In failing to provide this commitment Iran stands as a nation prepared to condone terrorism," the committee said. "The EU is morally and politically obliged to take note of this transgression and to act against it." — *Ion Black, Diplomatic Editor, London*.

### Zaire troops seal camp

TROOPS closed off the second-largest Rwandan refugee camp in eastern Zaire yesterday to hasten the return home of the 189,000 people who have been living there for 18 months.

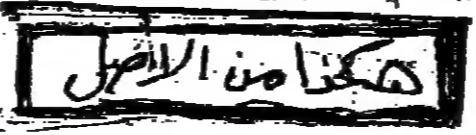
Spacing themselves 100 yards along a main road that borders Kibumba Camp, the troops told the refugees they could no longer come and go from the camp and that it would be closed.

"We have not been told what is happening, it all depends on the will of the Zaireans," said one frightened refugee. "I do not want to go back to Rwanda." Peter Kessler, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said so far the soldiers had behaved well, adding he hoped "this will kick off more voluntary repatriations." — *A.P. Kibumba camp, Zaire*.

### Lagos air controllers strike

AIR traffic controllers at the Lagos airport staged a five-hour strike yesterday to protest at the alleged beating of their boss by presidential security guards. The strike forced a halt to civilian air traffic at the country's main airport.

The strikers said that the chief of the national air traffic controllers was beaten on Sunday after a presidential plane was damaged from taking off from the northern city of Maiduguri because it was 2am and the airport was closed. — *A.P. Lagos*.





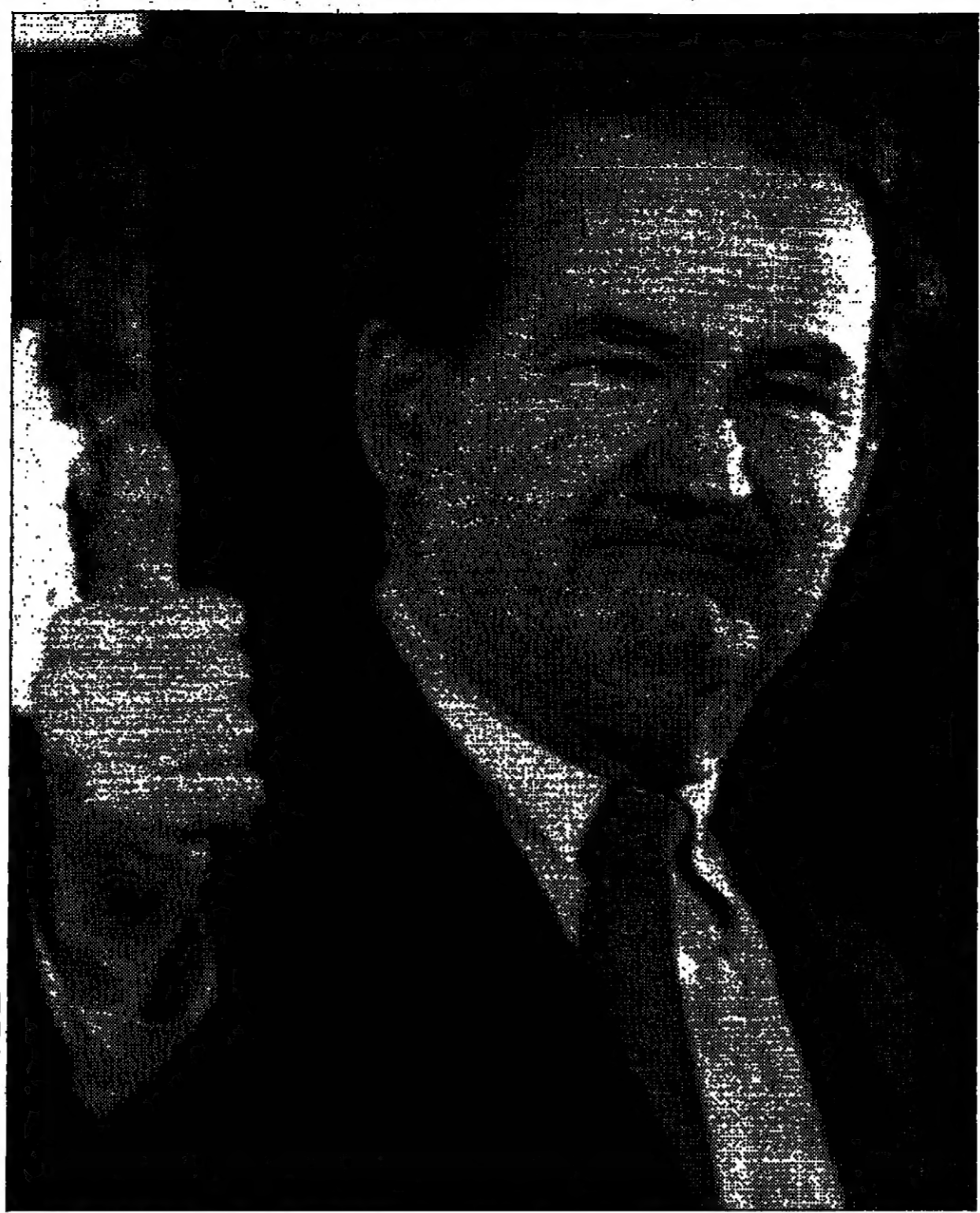
As the hero of the right surges through the primaries, regular Republicans are beginning to talk of Alexander



Humbling Dole gives Buchanan the Big Mo

In the end the charismatic rightwinger may prove too extreme for the Republicans, but he is writing their agenda, reports Jonathan Freedland in Des Moines

A EUPHORIC Pat Buchanan stormed into New Hampshire yesterday as the undisputed champion of the Republican right...



Thumb signs in Iowa... Bob Dole, left, Pat Buchanan, above, and Lamar Alexander greet their supporters as the results of the state Republican caucuses come in

Bush in 1992, can now claim to be the true conservative in the 1996 race...

After his 9 per cent poll in Iowa, Mr Gram's campaign is now in an advanced stage of meltdown...

He told a room full of his neighbours that he was backing Mr Buchanan because "he is a moral man"

He is ultimately thwarted, he can threaten to drain blood from the Dole campaign...



ABC may spell victory for Lamar

Jonathan Freedland in Des Moines, Iowa. BOB DOLE won a fire-and-brimstone right-winger called Pat came second and in third place was an affable chap...

The Clinton White House certainly fears him, perhaps more than any other candidate...

French army to be cut by half

THE French army is to be almost halved under a plan which President Jacques Chirac will outline to his defence council next week...

Russian airfield plays willing host to former enemies

David Fairhall in Savostleyka reports on an arms inspection in a new era of trust

THE 54th fighter aviation regiment had only six hours' notice yesterday that its airfield, in a frozen forest 200 miles east of Moscow...

Maj Roberts had come to make doubly sure, recording not just the symbols painted on the SU-27s tail fins...

where the Russians rear their own pork. "It's not that we expect to find anything wrong," Col de Jager explained...

TV imports battle looms

CLASH over the number of imports of American television programmes allowed into Europe is likely to pit the European Parliament against member governments...

News in brief

Libya firm on Lockerbie: Libya's General People's Congress reiterated yesterday that Tripoli would not hand over two of its citizens wanted in the West in connection with the Lockerbie bombing...

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Polish coal strike

Miners at about a third of Poland's coalmines stopped coal deliveries yesterday, stepping up a two-week-long pay protest...



Reaping division in Iowa
Dole's poor result leaves the field wide open

BOB DOLE'S conservative common-sense has been knocked silly in the Iowa primary where the result upset all predictions except that he would do less well than last time. Mr Dole must have thought he was safe pitching for 28 per cent of the vote — nearly 10 per cent less than his score in the same primary in 1988 — yet he still undershot the mark. The reputation of being a consummate Washington insider does not necessarily strike the most enthusiastic chord with the country folk of the Midwest. Mr Dole should have had a big advantage as the farmer's friend from neighbouring Kansas. But his campaign contributions come from a clutch of affluent families whose agribusinesses threaten the smaller producer. His reputation as the darling of the Fortune 500 may not have gone down too well either — he may do better in a more urbane New Hampshire.

cent of Republicans when he challenged George Bush. His success in Iowa might rekindle some of that support. His rocket is still likely to fall to the ground unless he can diversify his appeal to attract mainstream Republicans but he will be putting up an impressive display first. A fiery come-back by Mr Forbes cannot be excluded either in New Hampshire which may be more fertile ground for his upper income economic message. Flat taxes sounds real nice, like never getting middle aged and having the snow cleared quickly and not being bossed by Washington. But he will find it even harder than Mr Buchanan to broaden his appeal. He is also a less effective communicator who lost significant votes in the final days of Iowa by crying foul, having delivered a good few underhand blows himself. To be fair to Mr Forbes, he has spent no more than the well-bankered Mr Dole — but he has embarrassing little to show for it. The "outsider" Lamar Alexander seemed yesterday to have most to show by coming third. Mr Alexander had raised his profile after a slow start in which his low-key populism threatened to sink the campaign before it began. He is less afraid than Mr Buchanan or Mr Forbes of articulating ideas, and his appeal to the middle ground of Republicanism may be more threatening in the long run to Mr Dole. Those who opposed an anti-abortion platform appear to have chosen more or less equally between the two. Mr Alexander also scored strongly as a candidate who could be regarded as capable of defeating Bill Clinton. That remains in doubt for all the contestants who are still seriously in the ring. Mr Clinton, easily written off a year ago, must contemplate the divided vote in Iowa with satisfaction. But in the crazy world of US presidential politics he should still avoid complacency.

Lights and cameras. More action!
Britain's film industry would do even better with financial help

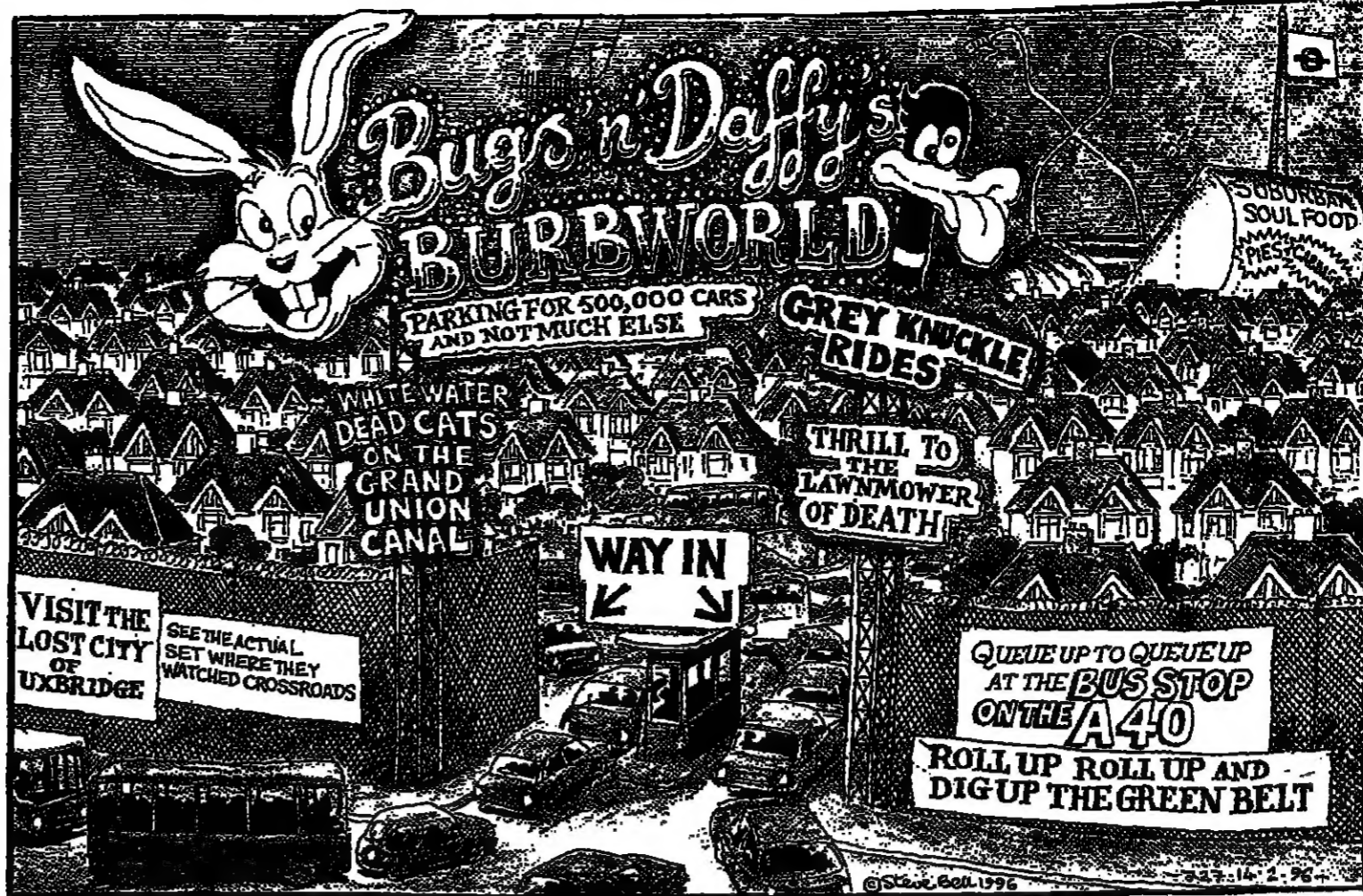
BRITAIN'S film industry appears to be enjoying a mini-renaissance while still being deprived of the government support deemed essential for survival. The latest proposal is a £225 million film and TV theme park on a 150 acre site in west London to include the first functioning film studio built in Britain since 1945. Pinewood is operating flat out, Shepperton is being renovated and Third Millennium Studios is to develop an old aerodrome in Hertfordshire into a new production complex. You don't have to be too imaginative to wonder whether these developments — all quite near each other geographically — will one day grow into a cluster of excellence in the way that production of Formula One cars has. For some years Britain has had most of the raw materials for a successful film industry without any sign of it all coming together. We have some of the world's best directors, producers, actors, actresses and technicians who regularly get Oscar nominations, yet most of them have to seek employment abroad because no one has found a way to establish a strong indigenous base to exploit their talents. We also have innovative television companies making films (the BBC and Channel 4) and a highly acclaimed National Film and Television School constantly on the edge of a financial precipice. Recently there has been a bit of a buzz in the air as American companies have increased the number of films they make in Britain, attracted by the skills here, the

exchange rate, the level of wages and the scent of an indigenous film revival. If the Government takes this as proof that non-intervention works then it will be making a serious mistake, just as it did when it pulled the rug from British participation in Eurimages, the only pan-European production company. The expansion of US film-making here is entirely welcome. It will create employment and disperse many talented film technicians from going abroad. But it won't solve the fundamental problem that we don't seem able to finance our own films let alone secure national distribution for them when we do. What the UK film industry needs, which other countries like Ireland already offer, is financial assistance. This need only be in the form of repayable loans at low rates of interest — to enable production companies to fund their risks for periods of up to four years before a plan becomes a film ready for distribution. The availability of £70 to £80 million of lottery money over the next five years will certainly help, but it is not enough on its own to solve the problem. Indeed, the availability of lottery money undermines the very principle the Government holds so dear — that the film industry should rely solely on market forces for its survival. There is no reason why Britain should not become a serious world force in film-making. If the industry can achieve all this without government support, think what might happen if Whitehall changed its tune.

Securing the security guards
Private firms need to be licensed and made accountable

SO just who is being the villain's friend? Police estimates suggest up to 2,600 crimes a year are being committed by employees of private security firms. The industry operates a system of self-regulation but a large number of the small cowboy operations have refused to join the two trade organisations which run the inspections. The Association of Chief Police Officers has produced nine case studies of the abuse that can occur: ranging from the employment of a murderer who had escaped from prison to theft by a private security guard in a judges' chamber. The police have shown the high level of people with criminal backgrounds employed by some companies: one with 26 employees involved 11 with previous convictions totalling 74 offences. Even some respectable companies, as our environment editor John Vidal demonstrated when he joined the security firm policing the Newbury bypass dem-

onstrations, have a lax recruitment policy. His references were not taken up before he started work. The police and major private security firms have called for statutory regulation of the industry. So has the Conservative-controlled select committee on home affairs. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have endorsed the idea. The main people resisting now are ministers — particularly Mr Michael Heseltine, the man who accused Labour of being "on the side of the villain". What's going on? Dogma. Ministers have become so obsessed by deregulation that even law 'n' order issues have to bow to the anti red-tape doctrine. It was heard at its worst by Francis Maud, a Heseltine junior, who denied the need for a licensing system and poured scorn on the police for wanting one yesterday. Private security firms now employ more people than the police. It is time they were made accountable.



Letters to the Editor

An 1,800-page missile

THE imminent publication of the Scott report promises to be a debacle of the highest order (Whitehall builds Scott fallout shelter, February 9). Already, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Douglas Hurd have been on TV rubbishing it in the same way that the Mitchell report into the Northern Ireland peace process was neatly consigned to history when it appeared to challenge the Government. The findings of another body set up by the Government is being devalued. David Wells, 67 Marlborough Way, Billerica, Essex CM13 0YJ.

ROBIN COOK'S outrage over arms sales to Iraq is synthetic. The political culture which made the scandal possible was not challenged at the time by the Labour Party front bench. In 1988, British Aerospace was one of 13 British firms which exhibited at an international arms fair in Baghdad. Iraq then started negotiating for the purchase of 50 Hawk aircraft, capable of

dropping chemical weapons and worth about £300 million. The Campaign Against Arms Trade led public opposition to the sale. The Shadow ministers remained silent, their lips sealed by Neil Kinnock's embargo on any statement on defence policy following the election defeat of 1987. Finally, when it was clear that opposition to the sale would be successful, the Labour front-bench foreign-affairs team lent their support. A few days later, the Government said that no export licence would be granted. If Robin Cook means what he says, let him give an unequivocal guarantee that a future Labour government would discontinue all sales of military equipment to any other murderous dictator. Suharto of Indonesia. Graham Davey, 29 Norton Road, Bristol BS4 2EZ.

WILL the Government now release the National Audit Office report into the massive Al Yamamah arms deal? If not, why not? Will the Government now

and the massive subsidy supporting the arms-export trade? This is mainly through the Defence Export Services Organisation and the Export Credit Guarantee Department. It is believed the arms trade benefits to the extent of £1 billion each year at the taxpayers' expense. Alan Staley, 1 St Ann's Court, Nissels Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1PR.

PERHAPS the Government's behaviour concerning the evidence in the Scott report signals a change in the law? For if the accused can see the evidence against them a week before their opponents in the peace process marginalise the small loyalist parties — their more reasonable stance since the ceasefire began has shown up the inflexibility of Trimble's and Paisley's mainstream unionism. John Major, supported by "opposition" leader Tony Blair, adopted Trimble's proposal, rather than accept the Mitchell advice to call immediately all-party talks. It seems this triggered the IRA's appalling return to bombing. Arthur Aughey claims elections would make it "the peaceful process", but the delay and further marginalisation of the small loyalist parties and Sinn Fein would destroy any chance of there being a "peace process" — another pyrrhic victory for the main unionist parties. John Hume's proposal for immediate referenda North and South on the two questions of rejecting violent methods and the need for all-party talks, should be extended to Britain. For too long the main unionist parties have been the "tail wagging the dog". James Anderson, Senior Lecturer, Social Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

A search through the wreckage for any clues to a solution

ARTHUR Aughey's appeal to "democracy" in support of David Trimble's election proposals is disingenuous (Comment Page, February 12). The conflict has been caused by majoritarian "democracy" within the sectarian Northern Ireland framework. The two main unionist parties would simply perpetuate the problem by insisting that an election within this framework is the only route for admitting Sinn Fein to all-party talks. Such a single-issue election would lead to further sectarian polarisation. Trimble's proposal was intended to delay all-party talks, reduce the Dublin government's involvement in the peace process and marginalise the small loyalist parties — their more reasonable stance since the ceasefire began has shown up the inflexibility of Trimble's and Paisley's mainstream unionism. John Major, supported by "opposition" leader Tony Blair, adopted Trimble's proposal, rather than accept the Mitchell advice to call immediately all-party talks. It seems this triggered the IRA's appalling return to bombing. Arthur Aughey claims elections would make it "the peaceful process", but the delay and further marginalisation of the small loyalist parties and Sinn Fein would destroy any chance of there being a "peace process" — another pyrrhic victory for the main unionist parties. John Hume's proposal for immediate referenda North and South on the two questions of rejecting violent methods and the need for all-party talks, should be extended to Britain. For too long the main unionist parties have been the "tail wagging the dog". James Anderson, Senior Lecturer, Social Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

valued these days more than anything else. After all, if it is for material gain, this government knows to such obtainable people as the Scottish royals and the Nigerian dictator, General Abacha. Multi-million losses in the heart of the City have their eloquence. W Paduch, Park Lane, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hants PO8.

GERRY Adams places responsibility for the Canary Wharf bombing on the British government (Comment Page, February 12). But anyone who truly seeks peace must see that, whatever the provocation, responsibility for detonating a bomb lies with those who ordered it and those who carried out that order. Until the peace-seekers are prepared never to take an action which actually results in violence, and instead to devote all their attention and energy to achieving peace, there will never be an end to the troubles in Ulster or elsewhere in the world. The bitterness and sorrow created in the hearts of those who have suffered as a result of this new act of violence only serve to make the task more difficult. Isabel Brown, Liverpool Road, London N1.

WOULD Gerry Adams please explain to us what is the point of entering into negotiations with Sinn Fein? IRA when it resorts to violence as soon as it does not get its way, even before negotiations have begun. Malcolm Laurence, Queens Crescent, Richmond, Surrey TW10.

AN IRA bomb goes off at London. Just under 12 hours later, after the bomb has disrupted your production, I have a Guardian in my hand with seven articles, plus photos, in the main section and a leader and two more articles in the Outlook section. That standard of reporting, writing and production is why I continue to read the Guardian (even though it has faults — some big ones — in other respects). Congratulations. J A E Denton, 39 Victoria Road, Epsom, Surrey TW20 1BB.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letter, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Broadcast news

YOU report (Media moguls in shake-out, February 9) that the ITC has given the green light to the merger between MAI and United Newspapers even though such a warehousing arrangement is outlawed under the existing Broadcasting Act. Self-evidently, this cannot be the case. If the merger is illegal under current legislation, the ITC would take action to prevent it. The Commission believes that such avoidance devices are against the spirit if not the letter of the 1980 Act and will be seeking additional military equipment to another murderous dictator. Suharto of Indonesia. Graham Davey, 29 Norton Road, Bristol BS4 2EZ.



An old hand at keeping young

MY LIMITED knowledge of cosmetic surgery leads me to believe that one of the few areas of the human body that cannot be improved upon is the hand. What cruel card could have superimposed the hand of a 62-year-old upon the lovely Joan Collins in your photograph (Pouting and pas-

sionate, but Joan is upstaged, February 9)? How does she keep looking so young? Hands apart? I think we should be told. Perhaps \$1,000,000 and a wig might have helped. Get yourself a pair of gloves, Joanne! Angela Lucas, 119 Horsely Lane, London N6.

Streets apart

MICHAEL Howard says "Some 'mature people' may wish to join the probation service but are put off because of the need to do a two-year course (Judges support 'hard' probation, February 9). I am a mature person who would like to become a doctor, but I am put off by the six-year course in medicine. Could Howard see his way to changing the rules? Janet Walmsley, 167 Industry Street, Sheffield S6 2WX.

Licence to kill

A WOMAN is sent to prison for not paying her TV licence (The poor laws, February 8). My daughter Kate was knocked down on a pedestrian crossing in Bristol. She died five days later. The driver was sentenced to six months imprisonment — for motoring offences. Kate's death was never mentioned in court. Two months before he killed Kate, the driver had been banned from driving for two years. The driver was not insured and had no MOT. It would be interesting to see how long their presence (and that of the herb-crawlers, pimps and drug-dealers they attract, as well as users, condoms and dirty needles) would be welcomed. T K Light, Whitborne Street, London WC1E.

A Country Diary

THE WREKIN: It's been a while since I managed to snatch enough time to get to the top of the Wrekin. On a cold, windy morning I walked up the path from the Burnt Cottage which winds through an avenue of 300-year-old beech trees. These trees are now falling apart. Nothing lasts forever and, despite a reluctance to let go of cherished and familiar landscapes, I am curious to know what will happen here when the great beeches clash. Judging by the cracking of branches in the wind overhead, change may come sooner than I thought. Up on the open white ridge, the wind carries a light dusting of fresh snow. The track leads up into the mist. There are two gateways through the earthworks of the Bronze Age fort — Hell's Gate and Heaven's Gate. Legend has it that he who passes through Hell's Gate in the mist will never return. As the mist

Streets apart

MAGGIE O'KANE'S moving article about child prostitutes was marred by her obvious incomprehension of the problems those of us living in areas of high prostitution endure and the conflicts that arise almost daily between residents and working women (Death of innocence, February 12). If she would like a clearer perspective, could she please send me her address and I will direct all the prostitutes in Kings Cross to work in her street instead of in mine. It would be interesting to see how long their presence (and that of the herb-crawlers, pimps and drug-dealers they attract, as well as users, condoms and dirty needles) would be welcomed. T K Light, Whitborne Street, London WC1E.

Streets apart

THE fact that those children are being cautioned and convicted while adults get off scott-free cannot make sense. The fact that this abuse of children has been happening under the gaze of official indifference is unforgivable. The Children's Society has recently launched a public campaign on this very issue. The Association of Chief Police Officers has indicated that it wishes to make an urgent response. We hope that those in social service will now be equally motivated to take action. Ian Sparks, Chief Executive, The Children's Society, Marjary Street, London WC1X 0JL.

Streets apart

SEVERAL years ago, in its submission to the Home Office Scrutiny on Magistrates' Courts, the Home Office Magistrates' Courts argued for transferring non-payment of television and vehicle excise licences to the civil courts. We argued that a great deal of time was spent in our enforcement courts dealing with these matters and this time could more profitably be used to deal with more serious matters. Unfortunately the Home Office report failed to address this at all. A J M Baldwin, Homeless Justices' Chief Executive, Hanworth Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 5AG.

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كتاب من الاصل

Diary  
Matthew Norman

**M**YSTERY surrounds the presence at the Finance Bill Standing Committee of my old friend David Hunt. Former cabinet ministers — let alone those who resigned office to make money — do not allow themselves to be drafted on to such sporadic committees, to spend long hours examining the minute details of the Budget. And yet there sits Mr Hunt, unpaid and silently attentive, while he could be at his law firm. What an altruistic fellow he is. Or is he? Could this be John Major's insurance policy against William Waldegrave resigning as Chief Secretary over the Scott report? It would be splendidly convenient to replace him with someone who had attended the committee since it first sat in January, someone up to speed on the fine detail and able to open the Bill for the Government in the Commons. The trustworthiness of David Hunt would be perfect in a crisis. So is it that why he sits so quietly? No, it cannot be. For the Prime Minister has promised to stand by Mr Waldegrave, and his vote of confidence (no more than that of Aston Villa FC's chairman, Mr Doug Ellis) is not to be treated lightly.

**W**ILLIAM Wallace writes from Westminster, London, to criticise me for being too gentle to my old friend Lord Wyatt of Weeford — a falling, if falling it be, for which I will never apologise. In referring to Woody's House of Lords oration about Sky Sport, I did not "express the full awfulness of the speech, the taunting reference to Rupert Murdoch or the way he steadily lost the sympathy of the house". A glance at the interventions in Hansard, and on our own Arena page, does suggest that noble Lords were losing patience with the old boy, while his own remarks about Mr Murdoch ("He is envied because he is successful," etc.) who pays him over £200,000 per annum for columns, are flattering. However — and it's a big however — I will countenance no suggestion that Lord Wyatt's thinking was influenced by this relationship. Shame on you, William Wallace, for speaking so of the Diary's friend.

**T**HE Contraceptive Education Service launches an initiative on sexual health care and contraception in Soho today — and spearheading the launch is... Dr Hilary Jones. Make it up, could you? Indeed, you most certainly could not.

**M**Y FRIEND Ann Widdecombe unleashes the exquisite sense of self-parody which has made her so well-loved. At the prison service's annual convention in Brighton, Miss Widdecombe explained why the Government was not closer to choosing Derek Lewis's successor, and invited questions from the floor. There were none. "It's all right," said Miss Widdecombe, attempting a winning smile. "I'm not really Doris Karloff."

**J**IM McGillivray, the ref who sent off Partick Thistle's Steve Pittman three times, even though the defender wasn't playing, is to become a worldwide star. Radio journalist Dermot Rendon has made a World Service feature about that fabled match, although it concerns a different incident. On leaving the pitch at half time, Mr Pittman's team-mate, Rod McDonald, an observant Catholic, crossed himself as usual as he entered the players' tunnel — and Mr McGillivray instantly booked him for crowd incitement. As for the dog mentioned yesterday — the one that was thrown by a Rangers fan at a Celtic supporter singing on a bus — his name is Dougal, and he's a Jack Russell terrier. We cannot be too zealous in our search for all the facts.

**T**HE Docklands Digest magazine for January and February has been faxed to me. The front-page headline is laid out as follows: "Work and Live Boom".



# Democrats shout out the R-words

Commentary  
Will Hutton

**I**T HAS become part of today's political vocabulary that the right has all the ideas, and the left is on the near permanent defensive — guardian of the outmoded concepts of social inclusion, equality and fairness. Nowhere is this more true than in the United States — and, whether it is the rise of the religious right or the advocates of flat-rate taxes, this seems to be where the centre of political energy lies.

Yet the worm is turning. What is remarkable about the current US political scene is not the ascendancy of the Republicans, but their difficulty in identifying a unifying candidate who might dislodge such an evidently flawed president. Pat Buchanan, arch-conservative, may have come a close second to Bob Dole in the Iowa presidential nomination caucus on Monday, but it was the liberal moderate Lamar Alexander who came third. Fiery anti-state rhetoric is beginning to sound wearying. The Democrats have begun

to sense the change in mood, and even, after the recent victory in Oregon for the Senate, a renaissance in their political fortunes. Stung by Newt Gingrich's landslide in the Congressional elections 15 months ago, there has been an urgent reappraisal of policy options — and growing confidence that the intellectual tide is swinging their way.

At the end of this month, a new big policy idea is to be launched, and already Democrats ranging from the liberal wing, like Ted Kennedy, to centrists, like David Bonior, are making speeches to soften up opinion. And what is the big idea? Nothing more or less than the stakeholder economy: the solution to low wages and growing insecurity alike. The Democrats plan to sell it hard. This is the elixir, a growing number feel, that could win them the 1996 elections.

Early drafts of the 80-page document are circulating in Washington, and one is in the possession of the Guardian. The core ideas are a "drastic" rewriting of the American tax code, an anti-speculation tax, and a massive re-organisation of the regulatory regime to create "truly responsible corporate and financial-market behaviour". This will be enacted in a Responsible Business Charter Act to allow for the creation of new socially responsible firms (R-Corps) and socially responsible investment funds (R-Funds). Here are the instruments to reinvigorate the US economy and reverse falling real wages, the Democrats believe, and at last offer hope for their natural constituency — the blue-collar workforce.

The report does not pussy-foot around. Drawing on the massive work done by the Competitiveness Policy Council, established in 1986 to report to the President and Congress on how to improve American competitiveness, and whose members include leading industrialists, financiers and trade unionists, it asserts baldly that the US economy is suffering from corporations under acute pressure from their institutional shareholders to achieve among the highest financial returns in the world. The arrival of new technologies and intense competition from Third World countries has ratcheted up the pressure, but American companies have not responded by taking "the high road" of higher investment and real wages. Compelled to fend off takeover from predators on Wall Street by maintaining a high share price and therefore high short-term profits, they have instead bid down real wages, exported jobs to low-cost countries and adopted an ever more aggressive hire-and-fire policy towards their workers. The result has been the collapse of the American dream.

The R-Corps would only qualify for privileged status if they met a number of criteria. They would have to invest and train more, offer stock ownership, health and pension plans to their workforces, recognise unions, offer 90 days' notice of redundancy, respect the environment, and be headquartered in countries which offered a minimum wage and banned child, military and prison labour for commercial purposes. There would even be incentives to become members of self-policing industry associations.

Concerned that the churning of company securities and growth of takeovers is discouraging long-term corporate investment, the Task Force document also proposes a raft of tax and regulatory measures to stabilise company ownership patterns. Company managements need better monitoring by their shareholders, dividend pay-outs and share buy-backs need to be reduced, and investment in R&D and plant and machinery increased.

The most eye-catching proposal is a 0.5 per cent transactions tax to be levied on every share purchase by every form of investor, but reclaimable in tranches after the stock has been held for more than two years. But there are measures to encourage "private investment pools" — groups of investors committed to individual companies and who will stand by them.

President Clinton is not sure how much of all this he will incorporate in his campaign, and there are bound to be some compromises. Nonetheless, it neatly offers the Democrats a way of pursuing a number of objectives simultaneously and uniting the party. Protectionists can use the legislation to insist that R-Corps keep jobs in the US; those concerned about health care can follow the lead of the Labour Secretary, Robert Reich, in winning the argument; and some senior Democrats are worried that Bob Dole or Lamar Alexander may pick up the ideas before the Democrats have worked them through.

# Blair's honest ambition is open to doubt



David McKie

**T**HERE are millions of words in the Scott report, few of them known to me. But one intrigued me which those who attended the Scott inquiry will confidently expect is a declaration of faith in the virtues of open government: not just as a moral principle or adjunct of true democracy, but as positively therapeutic for our system of government. Some, Sir Richard's wrath with that cast of mind which believes in being economical with the truth, or asserts that half the picture can sometimes be true, seemed all but uncontrollable.

To some civil servants, this addition to open dealing is a fatal delusion which will menace efficient government. Scott and his accomplice, Baxendale, simply don't understand. With not the slightest experience of working in government, they presume to lecture the professionals on how they should go to work. "Governments," wrote the former minister Tristan Garel-Jones in last week's Sunday Telegraph, "need a carefully defined area of confidentiality in order to function properly. Confidentiality, secrecy, is not a device to cover up impropriety but a framework which enables frank advice, full debate and deliberate consideration to take place..."

If senior Tories, confirmed in that view by their own experience, talk at the Scott prescription, what about Labour? Here is a party unservedly pledged to open government. Tony Blair's constitutional lecture last week reaffirmed the party's commitment to a Freedom of Information Act. That, civil servants will reasonably tell you, reflects inexperience. Few of the likely Blair cabinet have served at any level in government. To them, as to Scott, it is terra incognita. When they get into power and experience its difficulties, their faith in open procedures will falter. They'll begin to see that open government and efficient government are frequently incompatible. But, by then, it will be too late...

Unlike devolution or reform of the Lords, the promise of open government is one which people assume Tony Blair could deliver without too much trouble. But could he? Blair's own career hardly demonstrates a belief that crucial decisions are best made openly, on the basis of consultation and unfettered debate. As employment spokesman,

his decision to break the old Labour commitment to the closed shop was taken on the basis of subtle negotiation with key players, from which the wider world was excluded. The decision to ditch Clause 4 was taken in a close elite circle, with even the deputy leader let into the secret late in the day; and made public in such a way that much of Blair's party-conference audience didn't realise for a while quite what he was up to. Little scope is permitted to dissent (see the curbing of Clare Short for reasserting a long-established personal view on cannabis, or the fear of public debate on monarchy versus republic.) The Harman affair was only the latest of a series of incidents revealing a high-spin-doctor culture at work. A slump in the polls would be likely to follow, if they were to be the fault of Harriet Harman: the blame would be long to those who'd disloyally shared their misgivings with the hungry media. Meanwhile, reporters ringing local party chairmen to get reactions found they'd been warned not to talk.

All that is understandable. It's true that punters don't like the sight of party divisions. Since divisions are inevitable, they need to be hidden. Blair and Clarke have been spared, will be incomparably tougher.

**T**HIS is not a subject for fundamentalism. Total consultation on everything produces total inertia. There are delicate initiatives in government which openness, honesty even, would wreck (the early stages, for instance, of the Irish peace process). Even journalists know this — as is evident from the secrecy with which newspapers handle their own affairs. There has to be a balance. But in Britain, the balance is tilted too far in the other direction, towards secrecy and defensiveness.

A small, fenced-off clique, even powered by All Souls intelligence, is no guarantee of effective government that was what gave us the poll tax. And the kind of shameless cheating exemplified in the Government's arrangements for the publication of Scott — so hauntingly reminiscent of the practices which the judge was asked to investigate — is already in the counterproductive. But such things are deep in the culture which Blair will inherit. Will he have the commitment and courage — sustained even in extremis, and despite the wheedlings of spin doctors — to break with them?



# Claws are out

With nationalism matching economic growth among the Asian tigers, Andrew Higgins warns that war may become a reality

**U**NDER an elevated motorway in central Taipei, a vicious war rages between Taiwan and China. It is a titanic conflict, the outcome of which will determine not only the future shape of Asia but the balance of world power for the next century.

Casualties are high as Taiwan's high-tech military resists the sledgehammer blows of a three-million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA). Computer screens flash data of catastrophic destruction — planes shot down, warships sunk, cities annihilated.

And so, day after day in the two-storey premises of the Guanghua Computer Market, unfolds a virtual war that, though few in Taiwan like to think about it much, suddenly shows distressing signs of one day becoming reality.

When programmers first devised Battle In The Taiwan Strait, a computer game simulating a Chinese seaborne invasion, an attack by the PLA seemed as detached from reality as Dungeons And Dragons. The attraction of the game — spotlighted the central issue. Tension in the Taiwan Strait is not just a quarrel between China and Taiwan but part of a broader security crisis facing Asia as a whole. Instead of leading to a golden age of commerce and harmony, the mantra of a phoney Confucianism currently in vogue — Asia's extraordinary economic growth has at best masked, not purged, old territorial and ethnic conflicts. And, in the case of China, the region's historical and almost certainly future colossus, growing prosperity provides the means to procure and project military power in a way not seen since its humiliation by British gunships a century and a half ago.

Clauses is outflanking Confucius across the region. Consensus, hailed as the linchpin of Asian values and security, is giving way to confrontation as the confidence created by economic achievement fuels a newly assertive sense of national pride.

The passions that swept across Asia after the second world war and forced Britain and France to shut down their empires, with the exception of Hong Kong, are again on the loose. "We are seeing a second wave of nationalism," says James Tang, of Hong Kong University. "Asian countries feel they are stuck in a second league and not properly recognised as major players. Economic prosperity facilitates greater confidence, and this leads to more and more assertiveness in international affairs."

**N**O COUNTRY in the region has more scores to settle than China, where belligerent nationalism has become a substitute for ideology. It has irredentist claims — albeit mostly dormant — or formally renounced — against 10 countries in the region, ranging from the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea to chunks of the Russian Far East. Its most volatile claim is Taiwan. An attack may not be imminent, but, says a military expert just back from Beijing, the mood has hardened so much that military action is now not only possible but

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Martin Balsam



Unhinged... Martin Balsam, scene-stealer as a crazed army officer in Catch-22

PHOTOGRAPH: KOBAL

Regular guy on screen

MARTIN Balsam, who has died aged 76 while holidaying in Rome, had the kind of commonplace looks one would not give a second glance to in the street or on the subway, but which held one absorbed on screen. Though he almost never got top billing, he offered sterling support to many stars, often stealing scenes from them.

After serving in the army as a combat engineer and in the air force, he gained valuable acting experience with various touring companies, and played a murderer in Macbeth, Michael Redgrave's New York debut in 1948. After roles in two Tennessee Williams plays on Broadway, The Rose Tattoo (1951) and Camino Real (1953), he made a hardly noticeable entry into films as one of the longshoremen in On The Waterfront (1954).

He was, however, as the easy-going foreman of the jury in Sidney Lumet's 12 Angry Men (1957), that Balsam assured his place in cinema history. His moment in the film comes when he chafes quietly to Henry Fonda about the pleasure he gets from baseball, his face bearing as much with pleasure as perspiration as they stand looking out of the window of the stifling jury room.

He held him forever in the mind of audiences was as Milton Arbogast, the private detective who meets a chilling end when sent to snoop around the Bates Motel in Psycho (1960). As he faces Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins), he implies that Norman had been used by the missing woman. "I'm not capable of being fooled. Not even by a woman!" Bates insists. Balsam smiles slyly and replies softly, "Well, it's not a slur on your manhood."

Outside the run of ordinary people, he was splendid as the subway train jacker with a cold in The Taking Of Pelham One Two Three (1974), was one of the crazed army officers in Catch-22 (1970), and made a meal of the part of the outrageously camp antique dealer in Lumet's The Anderson Tapes (1971) — stereotyped gay he may have been, but it was made amusing by the fact that he was portrayed by the usually ultra-normal James Balsam enjoyed, coming as he did from the famous Actors Studio.



Adolf Galland... scored 103 'kills'

Adolf Galland

Hitler's fighter ace

ADOLF Galland, who has died at the age of 83, was the wartime Luftwaffe's most senior fighter pilot; a veteran of the Battle of Britain who became one of the select band of German war heroes admired by their British enemy.

Germany was denied an air force until Hitler tore up the Treaty of Versailles so Galland and his ilk took up gliding and flew for Luft Hansa (which secretly developed military planes and pilots) until the Luftwaffe sprang out fully armed with 1,888 planes in 1935.

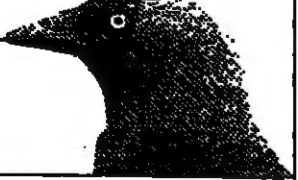
He then transferred to the Richthofen Fighter Group — named after Germany's leading ace of the first world war — and volunteered to fight for Franco in Spain. In the course of 300 missions he developed the advanced ground-support tactics which would be devastatingly applied in the Blitzkrieg years of 1939-41.

Galland flew ground-attack missions in the invasion of Poland which started the second world war and then joined the staff. In April 1940 he was promoted colonel in command of Fighter Group 26 and led his pilots to victory over the French and Belgian air forces, scoring his first three "kills" of a total of 103. After the Battle of Britain Galland went east for the invasion of the Soviet Union in

June 1941. In November, when Werner Mölders, the only pilot before Galland to win the Knight's Cross with Oak-leaves, Swords and Diamonds, was killed in an air crash, Galland succeeded him as Inspector of Fighters.

While commanding fighter operations in France in 1941, it was Galland who authorised Bader for the legless Douglas bomber by sending a telegram in German to London requesting a replacement steel leg for the captured RAF man. Despite Fighter Command's willingness to allow one to be parachuted in, Downing Street was adamant that the drop could only be part of a routine bombing raid. A sortie went out and was reluctantly "buzzed" by the Germans before the RAF made the drop and returned home. This gesture earned Galland the respect of his enemy.

Jackdaw



Q. HOW DO I write a love poem? A. The first thing to acquire would be a rhyming dictionary... You don't want to palm off lines like "Come live with me and be my love" or "Go, lovely rose" as if they were your own, in case your loved one was an English major... As you sit to write, try to be sincere and particular but not overly so. Love is a synthesising emotion, an emotional union with the chemical madness that compels species to propagate, so don't feel obliged to particu-

larise every birthmark on your beloved's backside or include her middle name if it's a long one. On the other hand, don't make the poem so general she thinks this could be a generic poem you use on everybody... You need only her, remember. Go easy on the irony and classical allusions, in the high-17th-century manner, those poets were functioning in a culture more print literate than ours. Our brains are becoming more and more like computers, and you don't press two keys at once. Actually, you do, but don't try it in a love poem.

Before you plunge into that rhyming dictionary, in fact, you might consider whether your love object will be turned off by a poem and find the image of you hunkered at your work-table with a box of dusty-rose stationery ridiculous. Maybe a brief fax would do, if she's a career woman. Or a bulletin on the Internet, if she's a subscriber.

John Updike gives his instant guide to writing a love poem in "My Love Is Like... Uhk", in the US edition of Esquire.

understanding, as men and women share lipsticks and swap clothes. "An Introduction to Makeup and Its Application", a one-time only seminar, will be held at 18th-floor conference room. Sorry, no more than one Vogue subscription to a department.

4. "Active" Thursdays. Game time! Jogging suits, ski tops, football gear. Come dress in the uniform of your favourite sport — sports being, of course, a metaphor for the competitive marketplace in which we operate. Even if yours is a solo activity, Thursdays provide you with the opportunity to prove that you know how to be a "team player".

Fridays will remain "Casual". Loans for purchases of clothes and accessories will be available through the credit union.

Thank you for your cooperation. Holly Brubaker takes a theme to an extreme in "The Changing workplace" from the New York Times magazine

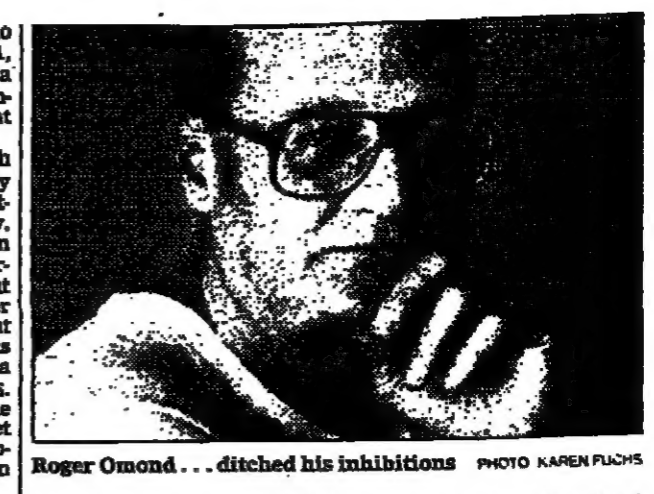


Secret zone: the Economist

Roger Omond

Quiet crusader's chronicle of courage

ROGER OMOND, who has died aged 51, has been remembered as a journalist on two continents and in two different types of journalism.



Roger Omond... ditched his inhibitions PHOTO: KAREN FLACHS

Born in East London, South Africa, he joined the Daily Dispatch there after graduating from Rhodes University, in Grahamstown. He made an early impact as political correspondent at 23 and night editor at 25, then as leader writer until his appointment as assistant editor and his departure from South Africa in 1972 for political reasons. In London he joined the Guardian, and until the onset of lung cancer was chief sub-editor in the foreign department.

In South Africa he impressed the security of his judgment at a young age and for his skill in writing editorials against the apartheid system without contravening the 22 statutes limiting political comment. He developed a following among black readers, and considerable hostility from white ones. There were threats against him and his wife Mary, also active in anti-apartheid politics, from officers of the Security Forces.

During this time he wrote also for the New Statesman, the Observer, and the Gemini News Service — articles which enraged the authorities even more than his writings within South Africa, because they projected the apartheid evils internationally and were therefore deemed virtually treasonable.

In Britain his journalism became more sophisticated as the requirements of a quality paper demanded more focus than broadside against apartheid in South Africa in that cruder battleground of charge and counter-charge. This was reflected in the discipline he brought to books he wrote about apartheid.

The Apartheid Handbook was classical Omond in its reliability, his meticulous checking and re-checking ensuring its full value as a dependable source, while the book he co-authored on economic sanctions was the best of its kind.

Yet much of his writing, except on subjects he cared passionately about, was rather inhibited in his public manner — the quiet voice, the long silences, and sometimes the apparent excretion of holding in a loud laugh at all costs, with clenched teeth, closed lips, shaking shoulders and eyes watering copiously from suppressed hilarity.

He was, however, as the easy-going foreman of the jury in Sidney Lumet's 12 Angry Men (1957), that Balsam assured his place in cinema history. His moment in the film comes when he chafes quietly to Henry Fonda about the pleasure he gets from baseball, his face bearing as much with pleasure as perspiration as they stand looking out of the window of the stifling jury room.

He followed soon after and we had a reunion in London, as planned, where we toasted our entry into exile. Roger now began to produce not only articles but books, often after a full sabbatical. But typically his style remained in the main inhibited — until he found he had lung cancer requiring radical surgery. He ditched his inhibitions and his writing flowered as never before as he produced the powerful pieces for the Guardian about his various operations and their effects. It seemed to me some of the strongest stuff I'd ever read by someone in terminal illness.

What made his burden harder to bear until he came to terms with it was the cruel timing of the first prognosis. He had been appointed editor-designate of the Dispatch news which delighted all of us who knew him, and was excitedly planning the move to South Africa when the first cancer was diagnosed. When the Dispatch directors cancelled the appointment after the second cancer was discovered his bitter disappointment was exceeded only by that of the young journalists there who were looking forward so keenly to his leadership. He would have been the ideal editor of that paper in that region at this time, during a stage when the brave South African entry into democracy and reconciliation

Birthdays

Prof Evelyn Ebsworth, vice-chancellor, Durham University, 63; Prince Hans Adam II, ruler of Liechtenstein, 61; Kevin Keegan, football manager, 45; Anita Klein, painter and printmaker, 36; Chris

Lewis, cricketer, 28; Countess Mountbatten of Burma, 72; Alan Parker, film director, 62; Donna Shalala, US Secretary for Health, 65; Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman, English Heritage, 64.

Deaths Notices ALLISON Margaret Ruth Broadbent, died on February 10, 1996, at the age of 83. She was the wife of the late George Allport and mother of Stephen and Sarah. She is survived by her son, Peter, and daughter, Susan. Burial will take place on Friday, 16th February 1996, at 11.30am, St. Paul's Church, 115, St. Paul's Road, London, N16 7PU. Telephone 01753 454829. Registered Charity No. 252822.

Death Notices

KAY, Alfred Worsley, on February 10th 1996 peacefully in hospital and of Epsom, Surrey, aged 83. He was the husband of Molly, much loved father of Martin and Steven. He will be sadly missed. Family flowers only please. Donations in aid of The Parkinson Disease Society, Services and General at Ascot Cricket Ground, Ascot, on Thursday 15th February at 10.00am. Enquiries to Geoff Turner, 10, St. Paul's Road, N16 7PU. Tel 01753 454829. Old, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Donated by Mrs. M. J. Turner. Tel 01753 454829.

Check for nuck... Assistant... launder... told o... pay deb... Rebel pro... Famell de... Governor s... nflation da...



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Assistant 'helped launder Nadir cash'

### Jury told of theft to pay debts

David Atkinson

**T**YCOON Asil Nadir stole £383,050 from his Polly Peck trading empire to meet private debts, and used his personal assistant, Elizabeth Forsyth, to launder the money, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday. She handled the money knowing or believing it to be stolen, according to the Crown.

Healed that the money was stolen when she handed it, said Mr Calvert-Smith. He was opening the Crown case against Mrs Forsyth on two charges of handling stolen property. The 59-year-old former banker and company chairman, who lives in Great Dunmow, Essex, has pleaded not guilty.

chairman of Polly Peck, "a substantial company". He had needed a large sum of money to pay private debts and he stole the money from Polly Peck, using Mrs Forsyth to launder the funds. She had met Mr Nadir, he said, when working for Citibank's payroll branch, where she dealt with wealthy clients. Two years later, she left the bank to join Mr Nadir as his personal financial officer and assistant.

## Rebel pressure leaves Farnell deal in doubt

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**P**LANS by Farnell Electronics to buy US-based Premier Industrial Corporation in a \$1.85 billion deal were last night hanging in the balance as one of the company's former directors drummed up investor opposition in advance of tomorrow's key shareholders extraordinary general meeting.

essary 75 per cent shareholders' majority at tomorrow's Yorkshire saga. A well-placed Farnell source yesterday admitted that "things will be tight", but refused to be quoted publicly.

only the management often referred to by analysts and the press as being some of the key people responsible for the outstanding success since becoming a plc. "At this point, we would also mention that we have the support of many former and serving employees, managers and executives who are not in a position to express publicly their opinions or cast their vote for fear that the details of the voting will be disclosed by company executives."

## Governor signals inflation danger

Sarah Ryle

**T**HE Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, last night admitted that he and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, had clashed over last month's cut in interest rates.

more rapid increase in earnings that too could be a factor," he said. He told BBC Radio Five Live's Financial World Tonight programme that the differences were technical rather than about the agreed objective of price stability.

## Cost-cutting BP pledges dividends bonanza

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**B**RITISH Petroleum chairman, Sir David Simon, yesterday pledged a dividends bonanza to shareholders as he announced a 45 per cent increase in the shareholders' payout for 1996.

## Oil company sets record for tall storeys



Going up... Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, right, oversees topping-out of oil company Petronas's 88-storey Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, set to become the tallest building in the world when completed at the end of this year. PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID LON

## Railtrack seeks £1.5bn credit line before sale

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**R**AILTRACK, which runs Britain's rail and track signalling, has applied to 12 banks for a credit facility to raise £1.5 billion before its expected sell-off in May.

run freight trains on its lines. Such a move would cost less than £200 million a year and would have the effect of reducing the cost of freight operations by up to two thirds and thereby stimulate rail traffic.

## Union leaders try to rescue whistleblowers' bill

Richard Thomas

**T**RADE union leaders were attempting an eleventh-hour rescue of a bill designed to protect people who blow the whistle on malpractice at work, and which could prevent future BCCI-style collapses or Maxwell scandals.

the bill is to proceed any further. The sponsors - who include Edwina Currie, as well as Labour MP Don Touhig - appealed for backing from the business community by stressing the safeguards in the bill against malicious accusations by disgruntled workers. To receive any protection, an employee must first raise the issue with their own superiors.

## Notebook

### Spanish custom at work in City



Edited by Alex Brummer

**T**HE shortness of the City's collective memory is quite remarkable at times. Take the reorganisation going on at the First Spanish Investment Trust, which is being converted into, of all things, a vehicle investing in small Australian holding companies.

an Aussie fund, it is at the same time helping turn First Spanish into one. Manoeuvres such as this again raise questions about the quality of City advice and regulation.

### Changing down

**E**DZARD Reuter yesterday heralded a significant turning-point in post-war German industrial history by severing his links with Daimler-Benz after more than 30 years. His resignation from the supervisory board, just nine months after stepping down as Daimler's chief executive, is not just an acknowledgment that his personal strategy of the rashly acquisitive dash to turn Germany's largest industrial corporation into an "integrated technology conglomerate" brought it, almost inexorably, to its record £2.65 billion losses last year.

So what is behind this second reorganisation? It seems the driving force is Duncan Saville who, with nearly 30 per cent of the shares, is the biggest shareholder. Mr Saville has not only offered to sell the trust a portfolio of Australian shares, but has also suggested that his own investment company become the new investment manager.

### Hollick's soap

**I**T MIGHT have been thought that Lord Hollick has enough on his plate with the proposed £3 billion merger with Lord Stevens' trust, but he has just got off to a bit of it. Now the once camera-shy Labour peer is demonstrating his Murdoch-like ambitions by challenging such established players as Pearson, Rank and Disney in the lucrative theme park sector.

### News in brief

#### Unilever wins £17m tax case

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group, yesterday won an Appeal Court judgment that will save it £17 million in tax even though its claims were lodged too late. Master of the Rolls Sir Thomas Bingham said the Inland Revenue abused its power in abandoning an understanding with the company over the timing of claims. He said Unilever was "an honest and compliant taxpayer".

my last year saw total loans rise by 12 per cent.

#### BOC deflated

BOC Group, Britain's largest industrial gas maker, warned of an unexpected slowdown in demand in December. Despite news that the group had increased its profits by 13 per cent in the first quarter of the year, BOC's shares dipped 2 per cent to 529p on news it expected demand in the US industrial gases market to slacken.

**Apple for teachers**  
Apple Computer and Cambridge-based Acorn Computer yesterday announced a £5 million joint venture in the British educational market, which has traditionally used Acorn computers but is increasingly buying IBM-compatible PCs using Microsoft Windows.

**Singapore bars BICC**  
Singapore barred BICC and four other foreign companies from new government contracts for five years after they were named in a corruption case, a government official said. BICC Supertension Cable, Pirelli, Siemens and two Japanese companies were named in court documents in the prosecution last November of Choy Hon Tim, former deputy chief executive of the Public Utilities Board, who was convicted of accepting bribes from a consultant to the companies.

**AIB profits up**  
Allied Irish Banks pushed its profits up 9 per cent to £187.2 (£390.6 million) in 1995 after increasing its loan book and reducing bad debts. Expansion of the Irish eco-

**Car group skids**  
MORE than £9 million was wiped off the value of European Motor Holdings after the car dealership group issued a profits warning.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.97	France 7.50	Italy 2.335	Singapore 2.15
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.1025	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 5.4
Belgium 45.00	Greece 337.00	Netherlands 2.4225	Spain 183.50
Canada 2.04	Hong Kong 11.85	New Zealand 2.23	Sweden 10.48
Denmark 8.075	India 56.53	Norway 8.90	Switzerland 1.78
Denmark 8.49	Ireland 0.9850	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 35.812
Finland 8.87	Israel 4.76	Saudi Arabia 5.69	USA 1.4950

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).





The cost of covering against disaster is set to soar

# Insurance threat to nuclear firms

Simon Beavis and Chris Harris

**T**HE privatised nuclear power industry may face a soaring insurance bill to protect itself against the risk of a major disaster if the recommendations of a key report by MPs is accepted by the Government.

In a second blow to the industry's hopes, nuclear reactors may also lose their priority status in the electricity trading system because the MPs fear they will otherwise have an unfair advantage.

The recommendations are included in a confidential draft report by the Trade and Industry Select Committee — the contents of which were first revealed by the Guardian last Saturday. MPs are due to meet today to try to agree the final wording of the report.

The draft report recommends that the industry's newest station, Sizewell B, be

left out of this summer's sell-off for fear the sale will raise less than it costs to build the £2.9 billion reactor.

It also argues that Government money for a special ring-fenced fund to pay for cleaning-up reactors is inadequate and the cost of meeting uncovered charges for decommissioning and waste disposal could render the industry uneconomic.

But the recommendations on nuclear accident insurance and on operating in the electricity pool will be critically important for the privatised firms' revenues.

Unusually, the British nuclear industry operates under a generous insurance regime. The industry has a limited liability for a single incident capped at £140 million. The Government picks up the next £140 million and then must provide further funds if Parliament agrees.

MPs on the influential cross-party committee want the industry brought in line with other industrial compa-

nies which have to cover themselves for much higher sums.

But in a further sting, they want the nuclear company being lined up for privatisation, British Energy, to pay an extra premium to the Government for any state guarantees beyond the higher amount insured.

The draft also recommends that rules under which nuclear reactors have a special "must run" status in the electricity market because of their supposed inflexibility, should be scrapped.

The committee believes the reactors should be forced to pit themselves against other types of generation without protection and is pressing for changes in the Grid code which rules the order of power stations on to the system.

MPs on the committee are to meet today to try to agree the report on this summer's planned sale which is thought unlikely to raise more than £2.5 billion.

## Reactors on long and risky road to retirement

**T**HE problem of paying the huge costs of dismantling retired nuclear power stations and finding a safe place to store waste has been most of the world's nuclear powers, writes Simon Beavis.

The long-term environmental legacy of nuclear power has been a subject for political debate around the globe. The issue has pushed a number of countries, like Germany and Italy, to rein in or abandon this form of power.

generation despite the shorter-term benefits atomic energy offers in terms of lower emissions.

It was the bill — now estimated at £25 billion — for decommissioning Britain's nuclear power stations that forced the Government to scrap its first attempt to sell off the industry in 1989. The City refused to take on the risks. The select committee report suggests that the uncertainties remain and voices even more concern about waste.

It recognises that Britain has a tested way of burying low-level waste at Drigg, Cumbria. But it expresses alarm that a proposed deep underground dump for medium waste in Sellafield, Cumbria, is subject to an inquiry which it may not

survive. It says there is no strategy for disposing of high-level waste after it has been stored in liquid form then turned into glass blocks.

The need to deal with dangerous radioactive material means that decommissioning and waste disposal plans stretch into the future. The shorter time for completing the job of dismantling stations is seen as about 70 years.

But the industry wants to spread the programme over 135 years in a "safe-store" programme because this would allow work to be carried out without special protection — therefore cutting costs.

Decommissioning falls into three phases. First is the removal of fuel immediately after shutdown. Ten years later, buildings outside the reactor shield would be disposed of. Finally, after up to 100 years later, the reactor would be dismantled.

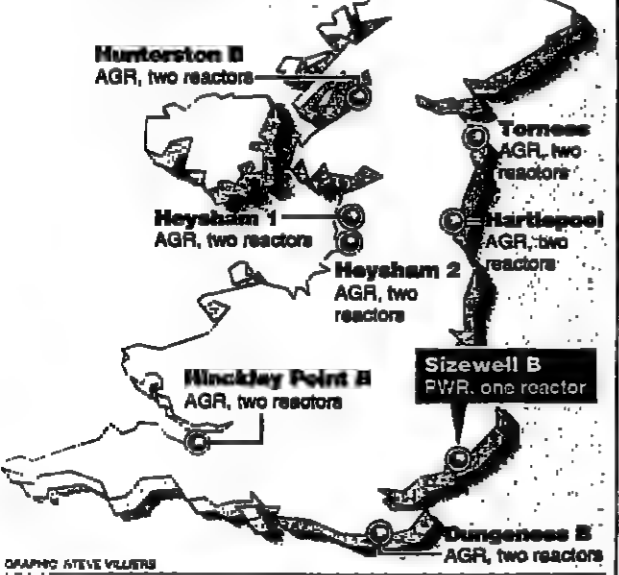
The industry's preferred route is to delay the second and third stages for 30 to 35 years to allow radioactivity to subside. But even allowing the timescale of work means the "back-end" costs are huge.

Current estimates are that it will cost £14.3 billion in undiscounted costs to clean up the ageing Magnox reactors, which are not being sold off and will be shut down first.

The bill for the newer privatisation stations — seven advanced gas cooled reactors and Sizewell B — could be £11.5 billion. The committee is concerned that not all these costs have been covered in the Government's plans to set up a fund to pay the bill.

The report estimates some £1.4 billion may remain uncovered.

## Nuclear stations for sale



Getting wired... Reuters chief executive Peter Job announcing increased profits yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

# £599m profits come on line for Reuters

Outlook/ Shareholders should get their fair share, writes Roger Cowe

**R**UTERS is a most unusual company — unusual in its caution, despite the fact that it has consistently delivered substantial growth in profits since it was floated on by its newspaper owners in 1984.

That pattern continued in 1995, with earnings per share growing by almost a fifth and profits of \$299 million, it announced yesterday.

The nature of Reuters' business is also unusual. Its former newspaper ownership reflects its origins and its classification as a media company. But in its early days in the middle of the last century, Paul Julius Reuter made money by providing financial information in the stock markets.

Mr Job is characteristically cautious about the prospects for profits, and reluctant to

take a dogmatic stance on the Internet. "I would like the latitude to change my mind", he said, reflecting the fact that the Internet's technology is way ahead of any consensus on who will use it, how it will be used and how anybody will make money out of it.

Reuters is providing news to 20 web sites, where it has registered 10 million "hits" a month, a pretty high level of interest. The company has also taken a 2.5 per cent stake in Yahoo, one of the Internet service providers whose products help users find their way through the worldwide maze.

Reuters also hopes to benefit from the technology of one of its recent acquisitions, Teknekon, whose expertise is in managing data flows.

There may also be opportunities for some of Reuters' transaction processing skills, but that appears to remain a long-term possibility rather than a clear plan.

acknowledged. "It is very important that new media should be profitable, not just fashionable. I don't believe in doing it just to be there." And he is not doing that, although the level of profit is tiny.

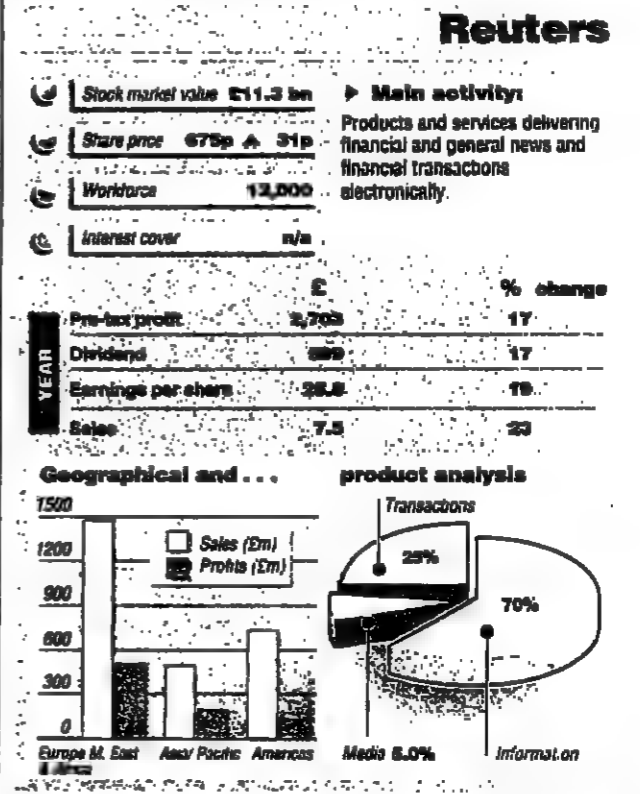
Low profits is not the norm at Reuters, as the figures show. Growth in sales, accompanied by the kind of fierce cost control which has brought the journalists' union to the brink of a strike, has resulted in hefty profits. The US business remains barely profitable, except for the Teknekon and Inetnet acquisitions, but that is more than balanced by growth elsewhere.

The result has been huge cash flows, which Mr Job says he is unable to spend, despite substantial capital investment and development spending. Last year Reuters spent \$191 million on development, up by a fifth on the previous year, and invested \$204 million, slightly down on 1994. Even so it ended the year with over £200 million more in the bank than it started with. Mr Job wants to give some of that back to shareholders, subject to negotiating the legal and tax maze here and in the US.

"We are investing just about as fast as we can", he said. "And we are prepared to make small buys — we have done 40 since 1984. But there will still be surplus cash." In that case there can be lit-

tle argument with giving some money back to shareholders. Except that if a company has more money than it can spend, even with Mr Job's oft-repeated caution about the impact of financial mergers on demand for his products, it

must surely mean that prices are too high or wages are too low, or both. In this age of stakeholder awareness, it is time to cry: "what about the stakeholders?" That would be really unusual.



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## Bondholders of Barings likely to take legal action

Tony May

**B**ONDHOLDERS who lost £100 million when the former Barings Bank collapsed are expected to decide today to sue former Barings directors to recover their money.

They may also take legal action against the firms who advised Barings when it issued the bonds. They are BZW Securities, Hoare Govett Securities, and Cazenove.

Jonathan Stone, a lawyer heading the Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, is meeting today with individual bondholders who lost money when the merchant bank collapsed a year ago after trader Nick Leeson ran up losses of \$860 million.

If they pursue the case, the action group will sue some of the 21 former executives and directors of Barings for their roles in the collapse. The executives were sacked last May, two months after Dutch banking company ING took over the assets of Barings.

The executives are currently under investigation by the Securities and Futures Authority for their roles leading up to the collapse and face the loss of their licences to work in the investment industry.

Because ING did not buy the Barings holding company, it contended that it did not have to pay the bondholders and offered them only 5 per cent of their investment.

Leeson said in his current autobiography, "Rogue Trader," that he was easily able to fool Barings executives into thinking he was generating enormous profits for them while he was actually losing hundreds of millions of pounds in failed options and futures trades in 1994.

## Young pay dear for free market

Workforce/Jobless under-20s upset the theorists. Seumas Milne reports

**I**F THE Government's enthusiasm for deregulating the labour market has yielded results for anyone, it ought to be under-25-year-olds.

Young people were the first to lose minimum wage protection, the first to be denied the money they are first to be affected by weakening trade union organisation.

According to free-market economics and government policy prescriptions for the past 47 years, the pay-off should have been jobs by the bucketful. The relative position of 16- to 24-year-olds has, however, worsened in the 1990s: the gap between youth unemployment and the overall rate is greater than in the mid-1980s, according to figures culled from the Labour Force Survey by the TUC.

And, unlike the 1980s recovery, there has been no narrowing of the gap between the two rates in the jobs pickup of the past three years.

The Labour Force Survey data show that while in 1992 youth unemployment was 1.67 times the rate for all ages, three years later the under-25 rate of 15 per cent had reached 1.79 times the national average. The situation was even more acute for men in their early 20s, whose jobless rate rose from 1.6 times the average in 1994 to nearly twice the average in 1995.

What makes the figures even more surprising is that they have deteriorated at a

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سنة من الاجل

Racing

Nahthen Lad on time and weight

Chris Hawkins
THIS afternoon's rearranged Ascot meeting (it was abandoned because of a heavy rain) represents an ideal stepping stone for Cheltenham and many of today's runners have the Festival as their principal objective.

Mulligan should be able to give 3lb to Major Summit. St Mellion Fairway, a dual winner at Lingfield, also gets 3lb. He is hard to assess, but David Nicholson has some very good young chasers and rates him highly.

Although Buckhouse Boy (2.30) is 9lb wrong at the weights in the Shamley Enterprisers, it would be no great surprise to see him win. This rapidly improving six-year-old made light of 11st 10lb when beating 25 rivals in a Warwick handicap last time and is taking on higher rated but largely disappointing performers this afternoon.



Sandstormers... the field for yesterday's Say It With Roses Stakes top the rise at Lingfield's all-weather track

Keeping punters in the know...

FROM March 31 it will be mandatory for trainers to report anything which might have had an adverse effect on a horse during a race, writes Chris Hawkins. Any subsequent improvement in performance should, therefore, come as less of a surprise and the betting public, upset about non-trainers, can feel less aggrieved.

Ascot runners and riders with TV form

Table listing Ascot runners and riders with TV form. Columns include race number, runner name, weight, and TV form details.

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Lingfield

Table listing Lingfield races and runners. Columns include race number, runner name, weight, and TV form details.

Sedgefield

Table listing Sedgefield races and runners. Columns include race number, runner name, weight, and TV form details.

Wolverhampton AW Flat

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Results

Table listing race results for Lingfield. Columns include race number, runner name, and finishing position.

Results

Table listing race results for Wolverhampton AW Flat. Columns include race number, runner name, and finishing position.

Results

Table listing race results for Sedgefield. Columns include race number, runner name, and finishing position.

Results

Table listing race results for Ascot. Columns include race number, runner name, and finishing position.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a grid of race results and contact information for various racing services.





On the edge... Atle Skaardal races to Norway's first Super-G world championship gold and his own first major title in Sierra Nevada yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: RUBEN SPINCH

### Skiing Skaardal breaks a big duck

ATLE SKAARDAL, who had never won a major title, became Norway's first super-giant slalom gold medalist when he won the event at the world championships in southern Spain's Sierra Nevada yesterday.

Skaardal, sixth in the 1994 Olympics at Lillehammer, managed 1min 21.80sec, too quick by 0.29sec for Sweden's Patrik Jaerbyn, who was second. "I was very insecure when I took a look at the course this morning," said Skaardal, dedicating the win to his grandfather, who died in January.

"I wasn't sure how to navigate it. But I had a super feeling in the start-house and went down without a mistake. My main concern was adjusting my edges and deciding how hard I should take the turns. You can lose or win a lot of time on them."

He contests the men's downhill on Saturday, his 30th birthday. Jaerbyn, who has had a disappointing World Cup season after two silvers and a bronze at the 1994 Olympics, was the first man down and produced a surprisingly fast 1:22.09 on the 1.37-mile, 44-gate piste which was powdered by fresh overnight snow. The Swede, who had never previously finished higher than fourth, saw his time survive 10 challenges before Skaardal was 12th out of the hut.

"With the No. 1 start position I thought I had no chance because of the conditions," said Jaerbyn. "I thought the course would get faster and I'm really surprised."

Another Norwegian, Ejetil-Andre Aasamot, was third in 1:22.11. The reigning World Cup super-giant champion Peter Runggaldier of Italy and the World Cup downhill winner Luc Alphand of France were among those to disappoint. The defending champion Austria's Stefan Eberharter also finished well down the field, two seconds off the pace. He has suffered five major injuries since winning the title in 1991.

### Jones fined £2,000 over 'squealers'

Russell Thomas

VINNIE JONES has been fined £2,000 by the Football Association for his scathing newspaper attack on Ruud Gullit and foreign players. It means the transferring Wimbledon midfielder has been docked an astonishing £28,250 in three years by Lancaster Gate for his disciplinary excesses.

In that time Jones has been fined five times and the FA considered banning him over the printed attack in which he likened Gullit to a "cockroach" and accused Chelsea's Dutchman and other foreign imports of "squealing".

But the FA spokesman Steve Double said of Jones' latest punishment: "He was hit in the pocket rather than with a suspension because we accepted that Wimbledon did not have any control over the article — or him."

Jones hit out in a national newspaper after being sent off for a lunging challenge on Gullit in Wimbledon's victory at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day. Wimbledon's Welsh international had earlier claimed Gullit took "a dive", tripping the referee. It was Jones's 11th dismissal of his career, although one has been rescinded.

Jones rejected the opportunity of a personal hearing into the dispute charge, instead writing to the FA, tendering his "apologies and regrets" over his inflammatory words.

Jones's heaviest financial penalty was handed out in November 1993, when he was fined £20,000 and given a suspended six-month suspension by the FA for his part in the notorious video Soccer's Hard Men, glorifying the game's dirty tricks.

Arsenal's manager Bruce Rioch and Newcastle's No. 2 Terry McDermott have escaped disciplinary action by the FA after their tuculent bust-up during Arsenal's Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final win over Newcastle last month.

Rioch later apologised to the FA for what he described as "an aggressive verbal confrontation" with McDermott. The two had to be separated by Kevin Keegan and Highbury stewards after they clashed following David Ginola's sending-off for elbowing Lee Dixon.

But the Arsenal manager was seen as principally responsible for the incident and has been warned of the consequences if he steps out of line again. The FA said: "We have written to him to advise him that if he gets involved in a similar incident we will not hesitate to charge him." "We accepted McDermott's explanation that he was effectively trying to keep the peace and we will be taking no further action against him."

### Laws ready to go after Bonetti fracas

Ian Ross

GRIMSBY Town's FA Cup meeting with West Ham tonight could mark the end of Brian Laws' managerial reign at Blundell Park.

Laws offered to resign yesterday in the wake of an incident at Luton on Saturday when he allegedly punched one of his own players, the Italian Ivano Bonetti, in the dressing-room.

After Grimsby's 3-2 defeat, Laws said he was "not sure" if it is thought that this would be in the best interest of the club.

Bonetti said he would delay any decision on his own future until after tonight's game. "I don't want to talk about what happened or what my plans might be because I don't want anything to overshadow the club's main objective, which is defeating West Ham." The injuries could rule him out for six weeks.

replay for the fourth-round team fully aware that he may be unemployed at the final whistle.

Laws confirmed yesterday that his future may lie elsewhere. "A regrettable incident did take place," he said. "I will go if it is thought that this would be in the best interest of the club."

Bonetti said he would delay any decision on his own future until after tonight's game. "I don't want to talk about what happened or what my plans might be because I don't want anything to overshadow the club's main objective, which is defeating West Ham." The injuries could rule him out for six weeks.

Bonetti added: "I have always got on brilliantly with the rest of the players and with the fans; I feel married to Grimsby Town. Clearly I face a very difficult decision. I will give it much thought and consideration."

Although Grimsby's chairman Bill Carr and his board confidently continued to insist that the matter was closed, it is likely either Laws or Bonetti will depart before the weekend.

Laws, who succeeded Alan Buckley in November 1994, is a popular figure at Grimsby but he certainly does not enjoy the sort of cult status afforded to Bonetti.

Indeed the former Juventus

and Sampdoria player is at Grimsby only because fans helped raise £50,000 to buy out his contract from an American management company last year.

Laws' predicament will have been noticed at Burnley. Twenty-four hours after United's assistant manager Jimmy Mullin resigned as the Lancashire club's manager, Laws — a former Burnley player — was installed as one of the favourites to succeed him.

The other leading contenders are thought to be Sheffield United's assistant manager Adrian Heath, Stockport's Dave Jones and Wrexham's Brian Flynn.

● The South African interna-

tional defender Mark Fish will arrive in England this weekend to begin a two-week trial with Manchester United.

● Tottenham's manager Gerry Francis wants to prevent the London Monarchs playing American Football at White Hart Lane because the deteriorating pitch is threatening their challenge for a UEFA Cup place. But the Monarchs, who have a contract to play five World League games at Spurs from April, will not be budged. The Monarchs spokesman Alastair MacPhail said: "The opt-out clause time has passed for 1996 and we are already committed to these matches at White Hart Lane."

● The South African interna-

tional defender Mark Fish will arrive in England this weekend to begin a two-week trial with Manchester United.

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Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	14	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	34	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	21	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	03	Milwall	29	Wimbledon	28
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Collic	09
Everton	06	Notm. Forest	13	Rangers	10
Hudd. Town	32	QPR	25		

Sport  
The Guardian

### Police cue in at St Andrews

Martin Thorpe

POLICE are to clamp down on security at Birmingham City following the billiard-ball throwing incident at St Andrews on Sunday. It was the latest in a catalogue of trouble involving the Midlands club and could lead to City being told to play at least one game behind closed doors.

Police are also currently scanning their CCTV video of the Coca-Cola Cup tie to ascertain who hurled the billiard ball at Leeds's Gary McAllister and the coins which were also found on the pitch. Police will ask ITV for their footage.

"We're scanning the film now to see if we can recognise anybody," said chief superintendent Colin McDonald, who is in charge of the club's policing although some 'low-risk' games have been police-free.

Birmingham's owner David Sullivan also appeared in the local press for witnesses to the incidents to come forward.

McDonald will meet the City secretary Alan Jones on Thursday and recommend that policing be tightened for the rest of the season. He will also suggest that no more games should be police-free, as it takes as long as 30 minutes to scramble officers to the ground.

● The Birmingham striker Steve Claridge, 29, could be on his way out of the club after talks broke down over a new three-year contract.

### Results

#### Soccer

FA TROPHY: Second round: Portsmouth 2, Luton 1; Gloucester 1, Millwall 1.

FOUR-NATION TOURNAMENT: Thailand 2, Denmark 2; Finland 1, Romania 1; Czech Rep. 2, Scotland 1.

#### Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Cardiff 29, Newport 17.

#### Rugby League

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Huddersfield 29, Wakefield 10; Hull A 24, 2.

#### Tennis

MEN'S SINGLES: Wimbledon (GB) 6-4, 7-5, 7-6; Davis Cup (GB) 1-2, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Wimbledon (GB) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2; Davis Cup (GB) 1-2, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S DOUBLE: Wimbledon (GB) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2; Davis Cup (GB) 1-2, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S TRIPLE: Wimbledon (GB) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2; Davis Cup (GB) 1-2, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S QUAD: Wimbledon (GB) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2; Davis Cup (GB) 1-2, 6-4, 6-2.

#### Cricket

1st Test: Australia 410, South Africa 268. 2nd Test: Australia 325, South Africa 205.

### Women's World Championship

1st Round: England 5, New Zealand 3; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

2nd Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

3rd Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

4th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

5th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

6th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

7th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

8th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

9th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

10th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

11th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

12th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

13th Round: England 5, Sri Lanka 2; Sri Lanka 2, India 1.

### Cricket

1st Test: Australia 410, South Africa 268. 2nd Test: Australia 325, South Africa 205.

3rd Test: Australia 280, South Africa 180.

4th Test: Australia 250, South Africa 150.

5th Test: Australia 220, South Africa 120.

6th Test: Australia 190, South Africa 90.

7th Test: Australia 160, South Africa 60.

8th Test: Australia 130, South Africa 30.

9th Test: Australia 100, South Africa 0.

10th Test: Australia 70, South Africa 0.

11th Test: Australia 40, South Africa 0.

12th Test: Australia 10, South Africa 0.

13th Test: Australia 0, South Africa 0.

14th Test: Australia 0, South Africa 0.

### Goal

#### Nicklaus at end of long Open road

JACK NICKLAUS, with the announcement in Florida that he is unlikely to play in the Open at Royal Lytham St Annes from July 15 to 21, signalled the end of a relationship embracing 34 successive appearances since his debut at Royal Troon in 1963.

He said he would enter the tournament as usual but would play only if his form warranted it. "The British Open is probably the most difficult of the major championships for me to play, simply because of the weather conditions," he explained.

"I don't think my chances of going are good this year." The 56-year-old Nicklaus, winner of 18 major titles in his long professional career, said that, barring an unexpected improvement in his fading form, his run of consecutive appearances in the majors would come to an end at 138 after this year's US Open.

"I have always felt that there is a certain time in all of our lives when the younger fellows should take their turn," said Nicklaus, who will make use of a special exemption granted to him to compete at Oakland Hills in Birmingham, Michigan. "I feel that now is the time to hand over the baton."

In addition to his appearances in Britain — three of them as a winner — Nicklaus has played in 39 successive US Opens, 37 consecutive Masters and the last 34 US PGA Championships. He played his first five US Opens and three Masters tournaments as an amateur.

"I'm not going to stop playing the majors altogether," said Nicklaus, who has been competing in select Senior Tour events. "I will still play the US Open if I qualify on my own and I may play the British Open or take part in a PGA Championship somewhere along the line."

"I have got to be realistic about my ability to compete at major championship level. I have noticed the last couple of years that I have not been nearly as strong as I think I should be."

Nicklaus, who played his first major when he took part in the 1957 US Open as a 17-year-old amateur, has won six majors, five US PGAs and four US Opens.

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Darts

John Duncan considers the difference between sport and pastime in the light of the Sports Council ruling that has put the jockeys of the oche off their aim

Darts swept from the board

OC TOPUSH is one. So is bicycle polo. Yoga has been for caravanning...

wouldn't recognise us because there is insufficient physical effort involved...

required, though Adams has occasionally struggled to get ready for tournaments...

the decision. "They wrote to us and said that they don't simply decide what is and isn't a sport...



Defining moments

"An amusement, diversion, fun" Concise Oxford Dictionary "To be recognised by the Sports Council a sport must be sufficiently developed to justify the term 'national'...

Cricket

Smith given World Cup all-clear

Edward Harris in Ahmedabad AS England prepared for this morning's opening World Cup match against New Zealand...

forward to getting 100 per cent fit and making myself available for selection...

Wales to raise roof and £108m

Robert Armstrong

WALES, who have selected an unchanged team for the first time for three years for Saturday's Five Nations match against Scotland...



Think tank... Rob Howley keeps England on the back foot during his impressive debut at Twickenham 12 days ago

Home boy Howley hits the heights

Frank Keating meets the Wales scrum-half who hopes to match his outstanding debut at Twickenham against the Scots on Saturday

AT THE black-tied posse... The scrum-half had lost the match but won the plaudits...

enough to know the difference between a smash and a stinker... The scrum-half had hardly landed on the green grass of

home before the Welsh Rugby Union... The scrum-half had hardly landed on the green grass of

Serious knee injuries punctuated his form and advance... The scrum-half had hardly landed on the green grass of

the square-shouldered muscular scrum-half's game in which he shepherd his pack of eight with an in-your-face unafraid composure...

'Boxer' defends his Test corner

Paul Weaver finds Angus Fraser pining for an England place

IT MAY have something to do with Angus Fraser's vast frame and clean, honest features but, even at the relatively young age of 30, he conveys the impression of exhausted excellence...

got a chance of getting back." England's World Cup squad - and even their Test party in South Africa - came down against the quality specialist...

Muralitharan chases his arm

THE Sri Lankan off-spinner Muralitharan, who was called for throwing on the tour of Australia...

he's 188 for nine was overtaken with four wickets and 4.3 overs to spare...

Tennis

Rocky bottom wrecks Capriati comeback

David Irvine in Paris JENNIFER CAPRIATI's comeback was put on hold last night...

stretched too far for a return and strained a gluteal muscle on her right side...

myself and I can't play" was her brief explanation until pressed further...

consistent with their status as professional sportsmen." Athletics Sally Gunnell, John Regis, Tony Jarrett and Steve Smith...

Sport in brief

Snooker Paul Hunter, the 17-year-old English junior champion, has been fined £2,500 plus £250 costs...

Table Tennis Bradley Billington, a surprise winner of the Welsh Open 10 days ago when he beat the English champion Carl Prean...

Chess Britain's grandmasters scored a double triumph in highly-rated international tournaments in Estonia and India...

Cricket World Cup '96 Live Commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29

older of US rats

ers to one



Giant leaps at Ascot, page 13

Spoil sports deny darts, page 15

Another fine for Vinnie Jones, page 14

Cardiff Arms and the man, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## BOXING PROMOTER LEFT REELING BY DELAYED BLOW



Double trouble... Frank Warren chose not to fight the DTI charges in court in order to avoid further legal problems over outstanding boxing commitments PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JENKINS

# Warren banned by DTI

## Suspension follows four-year inquiry

John Duncan

**F**RANK WARREN has been banned as a company director for seven years in the High Court following a four-year Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the financial collapse of the London Arena in Docklands.

Warren did not contest the order and agreed that seven years was an appropriate ban after the judge, Mr Justice Blackburne, read out a statement of agreed facts.

Warren had sought a month's adjournment for the case, such as was granted on Monday in a similar DTI case involving the England football coach Terry Venables, but that request was refused.

The charges against Warren are some of the most serious that can be levelled against a company director. Among other things they relate to trading while his company Arena Developments (Europe) Ltd was insolvent; failure to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act as to the filing of annual returns and accounts; failure to maintain and preserve accounting records; and defaults in the submission of VAT returns.

Warren emphasised that he had not conceded that he had traded while insolvent, but could not afford the time to fight the DTI. "Obviously I'm very disappointed," said Warren from his promotion at the York Hall in east London last night. "We wanted the delay because the DTI only found 165 boxes of evidence that were in their care just before Christmas and this is about the busiest time of my business life."

Warren's solicitors earlier issued a statement on his behalf. "It's important to remember that these were civil proceedings and not criminal. There's no suggestion of any criminal wrongdoing," said Stephen Davies of Park Nelson Thompson Quarrell.

## Re-educating America — as if by Magic



Vincent Hanna

**L**ike a man with bunions, couldn't I leap a juice glass, shoots like a shot putter from the last century, and — oh, yes — is HIV positive?

Earvin "Magic" Johnson is back, the man who stunned us five years ago with the news that he had the Aids virus, another hero diminished, a life ruined. No one would go near him on the court. He was as much a sporting pariah as poor Tommy Morrison became at the weekend. Magic's fate was sealed.

But for Magic nothing is written. He set about changing his life with as much energy as he devoted to ruining it. He funded a chain of Magic Johnson movie theatres — in the toughest black areas. He formed a touring team to raise money and consciousness about Aids, bought five per cent of the Lakers and in 1992 had a son, Earvin Johnson III, born too late to see him play.

Magic worked out in the gym, took his medicine and secretly practised with the pros. And last week he came back, the reformed sinner for whom there could never be enough fatted calves.

**O**n Tuesday of last week the Lakers played the Golden State Warriors. Millions held their breath when, after two minutes, the coach Del Harris stroled along the bench and said: "Let's go."

Magic began to shed his tracksuit and 17,000 fans in the Forum gasped: "Take it off!" They were scores not witnessed since the heyday of Gipsy Rose Lee.

He hunched about the court, then, in a twinkling, threw a wonderful fake to Latrell Sprewell, spinning him the wrong way and laying it in one-handed — a bolt of lightning that uplifted as it shocked.

Last Friday they played Jordan's all-conquering Chicago Bulls. Magic was marked by the unsentimental Dennis Rodman who battered the fit 9th mega-star all night in a lesson to those whose irrational fear of Aids had forced him to quit: "I think Dennis was giving the country a message," said Magic. Dennis said: "Who cares if he's got HIV, measles, cancer, whatever. I'm going to slam him anyway, and anybody who's got any balls will do the same thing."

Thus did Earvin "Magic" Johnson re-educate a nation, earn himself another \$2 million and vindicate George Bernard Shaw: "I believe in... the might of design, the mystery of colour; the redemption of all things by beauty."

And when Magic went home, his son said: "Wow, dad, I saw you play."

## Rowell brings back Richards

David Plummer

**J**ACK ROWELL last night made another U-turn in his selection policy, calling up Dean Richards and asking Tim Rodber and Martin Bayfield from the team to play Scotland in three weeks' time.

It is the second time Rowell has dropped Rodber in three games. Bayfield is replaced by Garath Archer, the Bristol lock who is huge at 6ft 6in but still not as big as Bayfield, who is four inches taller.

Rowell is attempting to clean up the mess that has been England's line-out this season. Many critics have laid the blame at the door of Mark Regan, a hooker not renowned for the accuracy of his throwing in. The England manager clearly believes otherwise. "We have chosen the

side which gives us some options in beating Scotland in the line-out," Rowell said last night.

Until yesterday it had seemed that Richards' considerable international career was at an end. Rowell had espoused an open style of play that seemed unsuited to the Leicester No. 8.

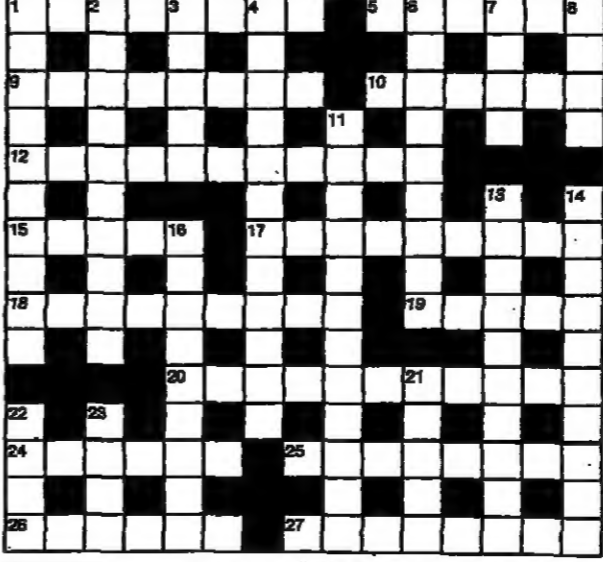
Rowell has resisted the temptation to change his backs, even though Paul Grayson at outside half had a difficult match against Wales 11 days ago and Mike Catt has still to show himself a natural full-back.

**ENGLAND:** 15 Carr (North); 14 Spink (North); 13 Gaskell (North); 12 Rowell (North); 11 Richards (Leicester); 10 Archer (Bristol); 9 Bayfield (Leicester); 8 Rodber (Bristol); 7 Catt (Leicester); 6 Grayson (Leicester); 5 Carr (North); 4 Spink (North); 3 Gaskell (North); 2 Rowell (North); 1 Richards (Leicester).

**Wales unchanged, page 15**

## Guardian Crossword No 20,575

Set by Gemini



- Across**
- 1 The rear light goes out (4-4)
  - 5 Fashionable — and easy? (4,2)
  - 9 That's about right: Northern Ireland is approaching a state of peace (8)
  - 10 Fan given a prison term (6)
  - 12 Rose and Iris will be at the wedding (6,5)
  - 15 A time for reflection when surveying the battleground (6)
  - 17 Cricket stroke providing the first run (4,5)
  - 18 Mortal, like Reynard (3)
  - 19 View of the sunrise across the lake (5)
  - 20 Together they make up a story (1,1)
  - 24 Proud, but from an high mercy is shown (6)
  - 25 Left Spaland for West African (8)
- Down**
- 26 A form of credit, or debit (8)
  - 27 Numbers to note in singer's programme (8)
- Down**
- 1 For holding documents, basic fees may be about right (10)
  - 2 The many-meteor deployment showed the Air Force's determination (10)
  - 3 Raise your hat to the English creme de la creme (5)
  - 4 Casually reads through Punch, for instance (12)
  - 6 Commonwealth regiment presses round the flank (9)
  - 7 Injury when outside left stumbled is a break (4-4)
  - 11 Delivery point nearest to station (12)
  - 13 While away, write answer to the clue "Tide of sentiment" (4) (4,2,4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,574

- 14 Means to gain over with bribes (10)
- 16 Is he about to enter Greek Orthodox? Definitely not (8)
- 21 Irish girl, up early, has early night (5)
- 22 Part-three staff under suspicion of taking stock (4)
- 23 The Yard is well-run (4)

### Solution tomorrow

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**The visual rhetoric of love must endlessly defer the physical fact of the kiss, must harp on preludes and aftermaths. Otherwise love will be nothing but lips and tongue.**

**G2 page 12**

سكنا من الصلح